

DKE Regains House And Rush Privileges

By Jenny Zhang
and Beckett Sterner
NEWS EDITOR AND EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Interfraternity Council Judicial Committee and Cambridge Licensing Commission allowed the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity members to move back into their house on Aug. 15, said DKE Vice President Kurt Josephson '06.

DKE had originally been suspended from their house until the end of Rush on Sept. 17 as punishment for holding an unregistered party with alcohol in Aug. 2003.

DKE will also be permitted to begin rushing on Sept. 13, Josephson said, five days before the end of official fraternity Rush.

These changes came about as a result of good behavior on DKE's part, as well as the consideration of logistical matters.

DKE members thought that a mid-semester move would have been disruptive and had asked the IFC and CLC to make the move date earlier, Josephson said.

Judcomm Chair William R. Fowler '05 said that it "didn't really make sense" to have DKE members move in during the term and that they would probably have had to find temporary housing in a hotel.

"They requested to be allowed to move back in on Aug. 15 for work week," he said, a period where fraternities typically clean up the house and prepare it for upcoming academic year.

The CLC agreed to change the duration of its housing license suspension to match the IFC's decision to set the move-in date to August 15, Josephson said.

As a gesture of goodwill, DKE will self-impose a social probation until Nov. 1, meaning that there cannot be more non-members on DKE property than members during that period, he said.

Good behavior rewarded

As part of the sanctions, DKE worked closely with David N. Rogers, assistant dean and director of Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups, to make a comprehensive evaluation of the fraternity, and "made progress quicker than was expected," Josephson said.

"There were dramatic improvements in attitude, accountability, and plans for the future," and "they went to extraordinary lengths to

DKE, Page 15



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

As part of the campus-wide Athena cluster renovations occurring this summer, the cluster in Building 56 was outfitted with a glass partition and an electronic whiteboard in order to facilitate collaboration among students.

Athena Clusters Updated, Quota Increased, Access Points Installed

By Mike Rolish
STAFF REPORTER

The summer has seen several changes to residential networking,

clusters, and the Athena computing environment.

More dorms get wireless ethernet

MIT Information Services and Technology continues to expand wireless ethernet access across campus.

"This summer, Housing and IS&T partnered together to bring wireless to all undergraduate residence halls that did not have access to wireless," said Karen A. Nilsson, director of Housing. "We brought wireless service to first floor common areas and lounges," she said.

In addition, a number of wireless ethernet access points have been installed from 77 Massachusetts Avenue to Ames Street, and in about a week, buildings 1 through 13, 16, 18, 56, and 66 will have wireless access, said Theresa M. Regan, director of Operations and Infrastructure Services for IS&T.

Cluster changes

IS&T has also renovated and reconfigured parts of several Athena clusters.

Networks, Page 13

Percentage Female Freshmen Declines

By Waseem S. Daher
and Beckett W. Sterner
NEWS EDITOR AND EDITOR IN CHIEF

MIT's freshman class has decreased by two students since this weekend, bringing the Class of 2008's size to 1084 students, instead of the expected 1086 students, said Dean of Admissions Marilee Jones.

The number of international students, 69, has also decreased overall for the class compared to the historical average, closer to 80 or 90, Jones said. She said this was likely because of increased difficulty in getting visas.

The gender breakdown for '08 marks a moderate departure from previous years. Female students make up 42 percent, and male students make up 58 percent, of the current freshman class.

This is a 7 percent decline from the class of 2007's percentage of female students (49 percent female, 51 male).

Frosh, Page 14



JONATHAN WANG—THE TECH

Matt A. Robertson '08 careens down "8.01: The Ride," a wooden roller coaster constructed in the East Campus courtyard.

CONCERT REVIEW

Warped Tour 2004

A Day of Politic-Infused Music

By Jordan Wirfs-Brock

Warped Tour 2004
Boston, MA
Foxboro Stadium
August 19

In high school, Warped Tour was my annual pilgrimage. Each summer, my best friend and I would stock up on ice, bottled water, and snack-sized cheese and then hop in her car at 7 a.m. to begin our embarkment on the 260 mile journey that would land us in live music heaven. The close to nine hours of round-trip driving fostered mid-night swims in North America's second largest river, eerie moon-

lit stumbles through Washington state's life-size replica of Stonehenge, and spontaneous bouts of dare-induced indecent exposure (evoking jaw-drops from a few lucky boy scouts serving their community picking up litter on the side of the highway).

Our destination, Washington state's beautiful Gorge amphitheater, catered to the mohawked and Converse-clad youth of Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Idaho. While Foxboro, MA, and the Gillette Stadium can't hold a candle to the scenic Pacific Northwest, and I've come to pre-

Warped, Page 6

The Tech will publish one more daily issue on Friday, Sept. 3, and then will return to its normal biweekly schedule starting Sept. 10.



Comics

NEWS BRIEF

MIT has found a buyer for the Talbot House.

Page 10

World & Nation	2
Opinion	4
Arts	6
Daily Confusion	8
Campus Life	12
Sports	16

Page 13

WORLD & NATION

7 Kidnapped Drivers Freed As Kuwaiti Trucker Pays Ransom

By Alex Berenson
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Kidnappers on Wednesday released seven foreign truckers held for 43 days after the payment of a \$500,000 ransom, the head of a Kuwaiti transport company said.

“We paid half a million dollars in order to release the hostages and in the past we had paid other sums,” the chairman of the Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Co., Saeed Dashti, told reporters in Kuwait, according to Reuters.

Iraqi and American officials have opposed ransom payments, out of concern that they encourage further kidnappings, but Iraqis and foreigners have tacitly acknowledged making payments of several hundred thousand dollars to release hostages.

Although the kidnappers, who had identified themselves as the Holders of the Black Banners, made numerous demands during protracted negotiations, Dashti was quoted in news wire reports as saying that in the end they basically wanted money.

The hostages included three Indians, three Kenyans and an Egyptian, and their fates had become major issues in each of their countries. Their release came a day after another group of kidnappers posted a video showing the murder of 12 Nepalese hostages. Two French journalists taken hostage last month remained in captivity.

China’s Two Top Leaders In Power Struggle

By Joseph Kahn
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIJING

As China’s leaders prepare to gather for a national planning session, the country’s two top officials, Hu Jintao and Jiang Zemin, are engaged in an increasingly pointed power struggle that has begun to create cracks in the one-party system, Chinese officials and analysts said.

Tension between Jiang, the country’s semi-retired senior leader who still heads the military, and Hu, who replaced Jiang as Communist Party chief and president nearly two years ago, has begun influencing debates on issues such as slowing the overheated economy, fighting corruption and assigning jobs, these people say. The most sensitive matters are now often viewed within the party as battles between rival factions.

There are no signs that the political system has become as unstable as it was in 1989, when economic and political disputes, including over how to handle popular protests for democracy, divided the Politburo. Moreover, since the death of Mao Zedong in 1976, China’s leaders have at times sparred over power and ideology without threatening one-party rule.

Israeli Intelligence Criticized After Hamas Attack

By Steven Erlanger
THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM

Israeli intelligence came under careful criticism on Wednesday for its failure to crack the Hamas cell in Hebron that carried out the twin suicide bombings in Beersheba on Tuesday in which 16 people died and more than 100 were wounded.

The Hamas cell, led by Imad Qawasme, has been responsible for the deaths of more than 80 Israelis, and its internal security has been so disciplined that neither Israeli army intelligence nor the Shin Beth has been able to crack it.

The army was concerned that Hamas was preparing an operation from Hebron because of an unusual period of quiet, officials said Wednesday, but there was no specific warning on which to act.

Schoolchildren Taken Hostage By Armed Terrorists In Russia

By Steven Lee Myers

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOSCOW

Heavily armed insurgents, some with explosives strapped to their bodies, seized a school in southern Russia on Wednesday, herded scores of schoolchildren, parents and teachers into its gymnasium and threatened to kill them.

More than a dozen guerrillas, both men and women, stormed Middle School No. 1 in the town Beslan in North Ossetia, not far Chechnya on Russia’s southern border with Georgia, just moments after the opening of the new school year, according to officials there and news reports.

Gunfire erupted in the seizure and afterward. At least two police officers died in the initial raid, while an unknown number of others might have died inside the school, Oleg Sagolov, a spokesman for the region’s president, said in an interview. At least 11 others were reportedly wounded.

Local police, as well as special forces and soldiers from Russia’s 58th Army surrounded the school, creating a nervous stand-off that continued deep into the night.

The exact number of hostages

remained unclear — estimates ranged from 132 to nearly 400 — reflecting a scene of confusion and fear as parents gathered in anxious vigil, sometimes having to be restrained for trying to approach the school. A handful of other students earlier managed to escape, apparently after hiding in a boiler room, officials said. Earlier Rossiya, a state television network, showed a camouflaged soldier racing a young girl, dressed in a light lavender skirt, to safety, followed by an elderly woman.

A man who answered the telephone at the school and identified himself as a spokesman for the fighters said they wanted talks with the leaders of North Ossetia and neighboring Ingushetia, as well as with a pediatrician who participated in negotiations with insurgents who seized a Moscow theater in October 2002.

“Wipe your sniffles,” the man said, speaking crudely in Russian with a Chechen accent, when asked what they hoped to discuss with the officials. He then hung up.

Russia’s defense minister, Sergei B. Ivanov, speaking in Moscow even as the hostage crisis unfolded in the south, said the attacks scouring the

country amounted to a state of war.

“War has been declared on us, where the enemy is unseen and there is no front,” Ivanov said. “This is regrettably not the first and I fear not the last terrorist act.”

The school’s seizure occurred the morning after a suicide bomber set off an explosion outside a subway station in Moscow, killing at least 10 others and wounding 50 in the latest convulsion of terrorist violence that has struck fear into Russians. Because of the nature of the explosives, officials said Wednesday, the Moscow attack appeared to be linked to the bombings of two passenger airliners, which crashed simultaneously on Aug. 24, killing 90.

President Vladimir V. Putin, for the second time in eight days, disrupted his working vacation in the Black Sea resort Sochi and returned to Moscow, as he did the day after the two airliners crashed.

“We shall fight against them, throw them in prisons and destroy them,” Putin said, according to Interfax.

By Wednesday night, negotiators had established contact with the guerrillas inside, but it was not clear what the discussions involved.

Bryant Rape Charges Dropped, Accuser Seeking Civil Lawsuit

By Kirk Johnson

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Kobe Bryant rape case was dismissed Wednesday in Eagle, Colo., after the prosecution said the woman who had accused Bryant of sexual assault would no longer cooperate, leaving the state no option but to drop the charges.

In a case that veered from melodrama to farce over the last year, the dissolution of the criminal trial was not entirely unexpected. Legal scholars who have closely followed it say the prosecutor’s case has been steadily weakening for the last month as a result of rulings by Judge Terry Ruckriegle, the accidental release of sealed information about Bryant’s accuser and, not least, the woman’s own decision in early August to pursue a separate civil suit against Bryant, seeking financial damages.

The civil suit was a particularly devastating blow to the prosecution, because it would have allowed Bryant’s defense lawyers to portray the woman, whose name has not been officially released, as driven by greed, not a quest for justice, since a conviction would have helped her collect damages.

But the questions that were raised by the case — specifically what happened in a hotel room last summer near Vail when a then-19-year-old front desk clerk went to Bryant’s room — live on, at least in the civil suit. And now the collapse of the criminal trial raises major questions of its own, in particular whether prosecutors were rash in filing

charges in the first place, or whether the evidence looked stronger at first than it did later.

The woman said they kissed and flirted and that he then became violent; he said the flirting led to consensual sex.

Bryant, an all star player for the Los Angeles Lakers who had enjoyed a positive reputation in a game where bad-boy behavior has become common, had faced up to four years to life in prison, or up to life on probation, if convicted of felony sexual assault. The prosecution and defense both spend huge sums of money in testing and investigation. Court facilities and personnel in Eagle County were often overwhelmed by the storm of media attention that the case engendered.

WEATHER

All Eyes on Frances

By Cegeon J. Chan
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Since there’s not much to complain about here in the northeast region, all eyes are on Frances, a category four hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale. With maximum sustained winds of over 140 mph and moving to the west-northwest at about 10-15 mph, the Bahamas will be the first target. They can expect anywhere from 5 to 10 inches of rainfall. Frances will then move onto the east coast of Florida. Although the precise location of where Frances will make landfall in Florida is uncertain, what is known is that this hurricane is larger in size and could be potentially stronger than Charley. So stay tuned.

Back in Boston, if you were one of the many people who spent yesterday moving into your new apartment or participating in any outdoor orientation activities and really enjoyed the weather, you can thank a Canadian High pressure front that slid into New England providing sunny and dry conditions. This high pressure is right overhead, allowing an on-shore breeze and setting us up for a cooler than normal day. Once this high pressure moves out and we get to the backside of the high pressure, southwesterly winds will advect some warmer temperatures for Friday. You can expect this long stretch of sunny and dry conditions to persist through the weekend — just keep your eyes on Frances.

Extended Forecast:

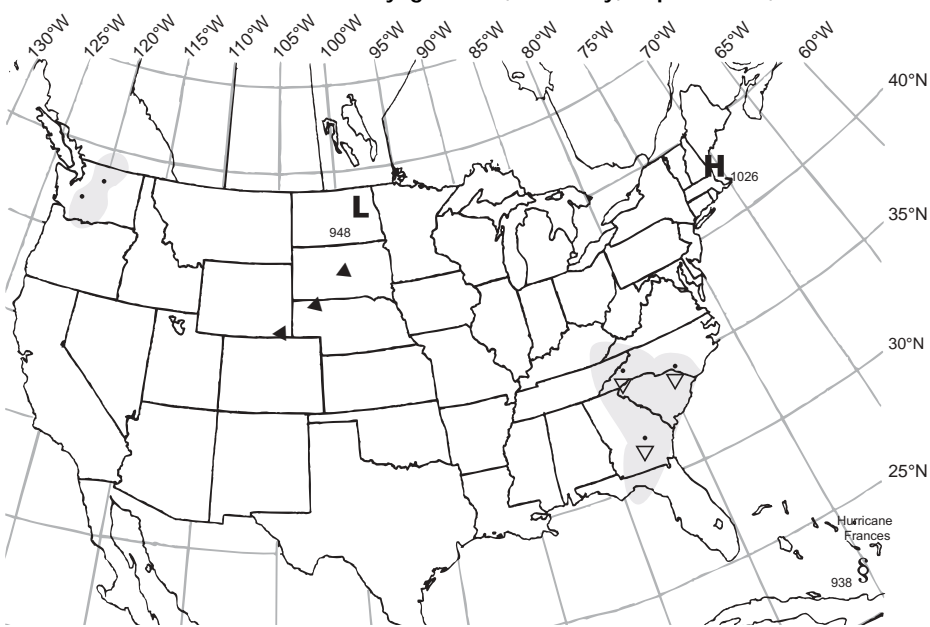
Today: Sunny, almost feeling like fall. Highs around 70°F (21°C) with winds gusting to 20 mph from the east.

Tonight: Mostly clear with some patchy fog. Lows around 50°F (10°C).

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny and warmer, with highs reaching 80°F (27°C).

Saturday and Sunday: Mostly Clear. Highs in the mid 70s°F (24°C) and lows in the lower 50s°F (10°C)

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Thursday, September 2, 2004



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	- - - Trough	Snow	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Shower	Thunderstorm
Hurricane	Cold Front	Light	Haze
	Stationary Front	Moderate	
		Heavy	

Compiled by MIT
Meteorology Staff
and The Tech

U.N. Gives Ultimatum to Sudan: Improve Darfur’s Safety or Else

By **Somini Sengupta**
THE NEW YORK TIMES SHIGEKARO, SUDAN

The United Nations has issued the Arab-led government of Sudan a stark ultimatum: Show evidence of improved security for the black African tribes of the vast western region called Darfur, or face the consequences — among them, possibly economic sanctions.

Yet that warning has provided scant comfort to those who still live in this unforgiving landscape of endless yellow sand cut by jagged stone hills. The desert is littered with camel corpses and the skulls of dead donkeys. Here and there lie scorched villages or deep craters left by bombs. The people, if one can find them, continue to tell harrowing tales of government planes swooping overhead before the rampage of the pro-government Arab militias, the Janjaweed.

Sudan’s government has been reluctant to permit free access to journalists, and so it is impossible to assess the scope of the attacks or the

exact extent of the government’s involvement. As the security council prepared to take up the matter on Sept. 2, it was also not clear from local accounts whether the latest violence occurred during the month it gave Sudan to meet an Aug. 30 deadline.

What is certain is that the threat of violence remains so intense, and the government’s promises to secure the region so mistrusted, that no one here feels safe enough to return home. Many people in Darfur are still on the run.

So terrified do they remain that some are hiding in caves, or pitching tents of twig and cloth under the thickets that sprout from the sand. They subsist on what little the desert yields. They collect rainwater to drink. They disperse their children for safekeeping and scurry as far from view as possible, trying to make themselves invisible.

Even as peace talks go on between the Sudanese government and their rebel enemies, even as Khartoum promises to disarm the

Janjaweed and calm Darfur — and even here, in this rebel-held area far from government troops — fear is overpowering.

Even after a visit to Darfur in early July by Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Sudanese military forces and Janjaweed swooped down on towns and villages, people said in dozens of interviews here and across the border in Chad, where many had fled.

They said that in recent weeks, homes continued to be burned, livestock looted, villagers killed and women raped, events often preceded by the roar of government planes and sometimes bombings.

Exact dates of attacks are difficult to pin down. Some 2 million people are displaced, nearly all of them black Africans. A shopkeeper from Abu Dilek, a market town southeast of El Fashir, one of Darfur’s principal cities, arrived here late one night to report a joint government-militia attack on the fourth Friday in July.

Cheney Says Kerry Had ‘Made the Wrong Call’ on Policy Challenges

By **Adam Nagourney and Robin Toner**
THE NEW YORK TIMES NEW YORK

Vice President Dick Cheney said Wednesday that the nation’s fundamental security was at stake in the presidential election, that Sen. John Kerry had repeatedly “made the wrong call” on critical foreign policy challenges and that the Democratic challenger did not appreciate the severity of the threat the nation faced after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Cheney’s remarks were part of a vigorous assault that he and the party mounted on Kerry’s domestic and foreign policy credentials, coupled with a spirited defense of Bush’s economic stewardship as the Republicans gathered for the third night of their nominating convention in New York.

“History has shown that a strong and purposeful America is vital to preserving freedom and keeping us safe — yet time and again Sen. Kerry has made the wrong call on national security,” Cheney said in remarks prepared for delivery.

“Even in this post-9/11 period, Sen. Kerry doesn’t appear to understand how the world has changed,” he said, adding, “A senator can be wrong for 20 years, without conse-

quence to the nation. But a president — a president — always casts the deciding vote. And in this time of challenge, America needs — and America has — a president we can count on to get it right.

Cheney led a parade of Republicans and one Democrat in a carefully orchestrated evening designed to undercut Kerry’s commander-in-chief credentials while trying to seize the ground on economic issues. The speakers stood in front of a banner that read “Land of Opportunity” as they blamed Democrats and the Sept. 11 attacks for the economic difficulties that shadowed Bush’s first term, and asserted that the economy was on the rise again.

The party formally nominated Bush to run a second term at 8:09 p.m.

Republicans enlisted the Democrat who delivered the keynote address at the 1992 Democratic convention that nominated Bill Clinton, Sen. Zell Miller of Georgia, to offer a bruising attack on Kerry. Miller, a southern conservative who has grown increasingly alienated from his party, said Democrats put partisan politics over national security and portrayed Kerry’s party as “faint-hearted,” self-indulgent and

indecisive.

“For more than twenty years, on every one of the great issues of freedom and security, John Kerry has been more wrong, more weak and more wobbly than any other national figure,” Miller said, according to the prepared text. “John Kerry wants to re-fight yesterday’s war,” he said. “George Bush believes we have to fight today’s war and be ready for tomorrow’s challenges. George Bush is committed to providing the kind of forces it takes to root out terrorists.” Miller added: “George Bush wants to grab terrorists by the throat and not let them go to get a better grip. From John Kerry, they get a “yes-no-maybe” bowl of mush that can only encourage our enemies and confuse our friends.”

Cheney and Miller paired up in a one-two punch of prime-time attractions for the Republican on a day where, once again, New York witnessed protests directed against the convention — this time, including one that made it inside Madison Square Garden itself. The police arrested 12 members of ACT-Up who infiltrated the garden during a morning session of Republican youth in a protest of Bush AIDS policy.

Justice Department Seeks To Resolve Its Sleeper Combat Cell Investigation

By **Danny Hakim**
THE NEW YORK TIMES DETROIT

The Justice Department assailed its own legal strategy on Wednesday in the case that brought its first courtroom victory in the war on terror.

In a 60-page filing released on Wednesday, prosecutors asked a federal judge to end the terror case against what they once called a “sleeper operational combat cell” based here. They are asking for a new trial of three men only on document fraud.

After nine months of investigation, federal prosecutors compiled a wealth of evidence that they said fatally undermined every aspect of their terror case. They also sharply rebuked the prosecutor who led the case, Richard G. Convertino, suggesting he knowingly withheld evidence that he was obligated to share with defense lawyers. Convertino, who was removed as the case prosecutor last year and is the subject of a

department investigation, has previously denied accusations that he did anything wrong and has filed a lawsuit against the department.

The developments marked a stunning reversal in a case once hailed by Attorney General John Ashcroft as a major victory in the war on terror.

“To have one of the department’s few wins move into the loss category is pretty remarkable,” said Jonathan Turley, a law professor at George Washington University. “The Detroit case is like a 20-car pileup for Ashcroft. You have an open feud with the former prosecutor and ultimately the abandonment of the case.”

Some others were heartened that the department aired its missteps.

“We applaud the Justice Department’s call for fairness in this case,” said Ismael Ahmed, executive director of the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services, in a statement on Wednesday. “It clearly demonstrates why we feel

that America is such a great country.”

Ashcroft declined to comment through a spokesman.

“The filing does speak for itself,” said Bryan Sierra, a Justice Department spokesman in Washington. “We are obligated to do the right thing if we feel something went wrong with the case.”

In June 2003, two Moroccan men, Abdel-Ilah Elmadoudi, 38, and Karim Koubriti, 26, were convicted on terror and document fraud charges. A third Moroccan man, Ahmed Hannan, 36, was convicted of document fraud. A fourth man was acquitted. The men were never sentenced because of escalating problems over how the case was handled.

“In its best light, the record would show that the prosecution committed a pattern of mistakes and oversights that deprived the defendants of discoverable evidence,” federal prosecutors said in their latest filing.

The Police: Tools Of Crowd Control, Scooters And Mesh Netting

By **Randal C. Archibold**
THE NEW YORK TIMES NEW YORK

With no permit but an agreement with police commanders to keep sidewalks clear and not block traffic, antiwar marchers on Tuesday afternoon stepped off the curb near Ground Zero for a march to Madison Square Garden.

But in less than 10 minutes, hundreds of the protesters were corralled behind orange mesh netting, folding their arms behind their backs to be handcuffed and crying out to police officers, “Why are we being arrested?” “What are the charges?”

The arrests of roughly 200 people engaged in a peaceful rally emerged as a flashpoint Wednesday, with civil libertarians complaining that the efforts to keep streets and sidewalks clear and not allow demonstrations near the Garden without a permit have come at the cost of First Amendment rights.

The police, on the other hand, argued that they have bent over backwards to accommodate peaceful protesters even when they lack permits, and are forced to act when certain rules are broken.

From the use of motorized scooters instead of horses, to orange netting to halt and confine people for arrest, to a show of force deploying scores of officers on any whiff of trouble, the police have largely succeeded in keeping demonstrations away from the Garden and, with a few exceptions, mostly violence free.

Cuban Exile Leader In Miami Joins Democrats

By **Terry Aguayo**
THE NEW YORK TIMES MIAMI

In an unexpected move that signals the political diversification of the Cuban-American community, the executive director of a prominent Cuban-American exile group here has left his post to join a Democratic advocacy organization.

Joe Garcia, executive director of the Cuban American National Foundation, has become the senior advisor in Florida for the New Democrat Network, a Washington-based 527 organization. “I think this is probably the most important election of my generation, and I have to get involved,” Garcia said.

As executive director of the foundation, a nonpartisan group, Garcia’s role was to promote policies affecting Cuban affairs without endorsing any political party.

Garcia, a longtime Democrat, said he chose to join the New Democrat Network because he believes no group is doing a better job reaching out to Hispanics in Florida and across the country. He began work in the new post on Monday.

“I don’t think we’ve reached out enough to Cuban-Americans and Hispanics in general,” Garcia said of the Democratic Party. “As Democrats, we make a huge mistake in walking away from the Cuban-American vote. And as Cuban-Americans, we’ve paid a huge price.”

Claiming Victory In Legal Case, Chalabi Returns To Iraqi Politics

By **Sabrina Tavernise**
THE NEW YORK TIMES BAGHDAD, IRAQ

In his first public appearance since an Iraqi judge ordered his arrest three weeks ago, Ahmad Chalabi, a former exile leader, announced his return to Iraq’s political scene on Wednesday, saying that criminal charges against him had been dropped.

But later on Wednesday, the judge, Zuhair al-Maliki, said in an interview that the case had not been completely closed and that Chalabi might still need to appear for questioning.

Speaking at a news conference at his former headquarters here, Chalabi claimed a victory in what has been a struggle with the new Iraqi government of Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, which has in recent weeks ordered two raids on two of his main offices.

Chalabi has contended that a warrant issued for his arrest in early August was political, brought at the behest of American officials. It was now reduced to a summons, he said. He also said that the judge had dismissed the counterfeiting charges against him.

In the interview, Maliki was less conclusive, however, saying that Chalabi had yet to be cleared.

In a separate case, Chalabi’s nephew, Salem Chalabi, charged with involvement in the killing of an Iraqi official, no longer faces arrest and will return to Iraq for questioning. Salem Chalabi heads a tribunal set up to prosecute Saddam Hussein.

“Chalabi is a survivor,” said another former Iraqi government official. “He has always come back. He never gives up on politics.”

Bush Campaign Sues To Halt Unrestricted Spending on Attack Ads

By **David Stout**
THE NEW YORK TIMES NEW YORK

Hours before President Bush was to arrive in New York City a day before his appearance at the Republican National Convention, his campaign organization filed a lawsuit Wednesday aimed at halting unrestricted spending by independent political groups.

The suit, filed in federal court in the District of Columbia, seeks to force the Federal Election Commission to act on the Bush campaign’s administrative complaints, filed with the FEC more than five months ago. The targets are so-called 527 committees, named after a section of the tax code.

“To date, the FEC has given no public indication that it has taken any action on the important issues we raised,” Tom Josefiak, general counsel to the Bush-Cheney campaign, said in a statement. “These particular 527s have already spent more than \$63 million on attack ads and \$20 million on grassroots voter programs.”

The campaign filed the suit as the president was campaigning Wednesday in Ohio before heading to New York, where he was scheduled to watch Wednesday night’s program with firefighters in Queens.

OPINION

A Slippery Slope for Freshmen Parties

Tuesday’s alcoholic romp at Burton-Conner by a large number of freshmen is a key indicator of what is to come for the MIT of the future. *The Tech* applauds the freshmen

Editorial

for showing initiative in organizing a large social gathering without upperclassmen support, and for deciding very quickly to test the boundaries of the MIT environment. Clearly the MIT of the future will be a very fun place to be and live up to our motto of working hard and playing hard. Or will it?

What the freshmen who organized this event may not have realized is that MIT has been through a significant period of changes over the last few years, and the rights and privileges that came with being MIT students have been limited due to the extreme actions of a few. MIT has seen fraternities face severe sanctions which may have seemed unreasonable when taken individually, but were done in the context of a growing environment of strict regulations from within MIT and from Cambridge and Boston. The most severe sanction, the prohibition of freshmen moving into fraternities, was ostensibly made because the dormitories provide a safe haven for freshmen to not get into trouble in their first months at MIT. Or do they?

At Tuesday’s event, indications are that the graduate residence tutors, housemasters and other support systems which are supposed to protect students in the dormitories were not used, although one GRT did help contain the party at the request of some upperclassmen. The upperclassmen who worked to curtail the event to a reasonable level should be commended, because they understood that events like this are what severely impacted the fraternity system and

similar behavior in the dormitories will only lead to a more strict and sterile MIT.

The members of the dormitory support system who were in a position to respond should realize that what gives MIT the confidence to house freshmen in dormitories is the network of GRTs, housemasters and upperclassmen who can ensure that a social atmosphere exists without the need for strict outside intervention. If this system continues to fail, the energy and enjoyment that the freshmen clearly bring to MIT will be squelched by the same iron fist of the administration which has curtailed the Fraternity, Sorority, and Independent Living Group system. This event should also serve as a powerful reminder that students will be students, regardless of where they are housed. No support system is perfect, and different models have different benefits. Would such a bash have been allowed by the upperclassmen at a fraternity house who have a much more careful eye over the goings-on of their small communities? Did moving the freshmen to campus really provide the safe haven that was desired for them?

The Tech realizes that this is just one event, with limited consequences, that should not be seen as a catalyst for major repercussions. But it contains some lasting lessons that if not heeded now, could spell doom for future generations of dormitory residents. GRTs in every dormitory need to ensure that they are approachable, and at that they are reachable by the students on their floors. Freshmen need to keep up the enthusiasm but keep in mind a hint of what may come if their enthusiasm goes too far. Finally, the administration needs to realize that somewhere, somehow, MIT students will find a way to have fun — just make sure we’ve got the support to not go too far.



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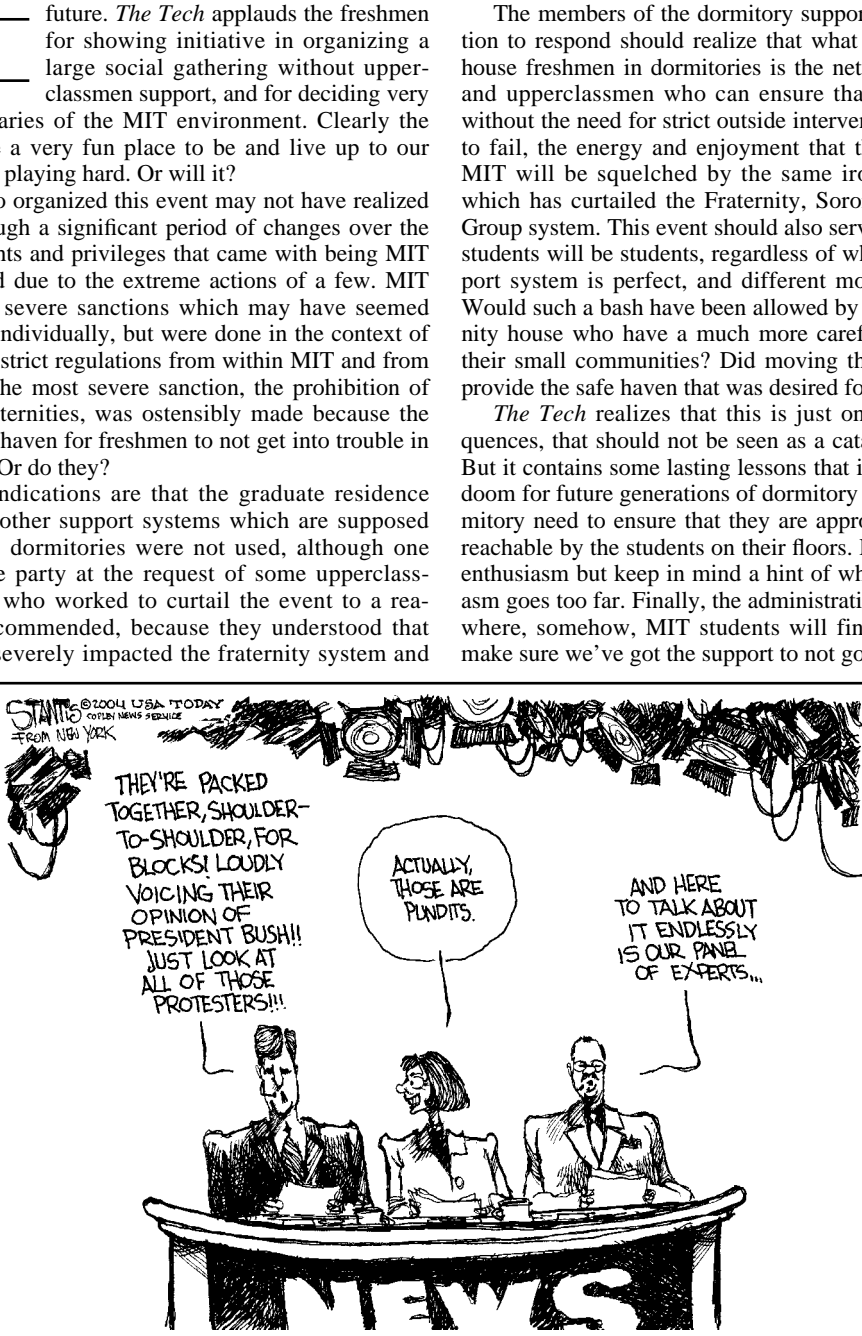
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Letters To The Editor

Comparing Apples And Oranges

I would like to answer the question Ruth Miller posed at the end of her column in *The Tech* on Tuesday, Aug. 31 [“How Much Candidate Honesty is Too Much?”].

“Would I vote for Carl?” In a word: Yes. I would vote for Carl. Ms. Miller sets up a poorly disguised “apples and oranges” comparison between Candidate Carl and George Bush and the gang. Candidate Carl recognizes that his argument is based on a faulty premise and, before he actually changes anything (this is the key point here), realizes his mistake and mends his ways. There’s no lying going on here at all, just an honest error that is recognized as such. Whether the truth comes from a little girl at a farmer’s market or from the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, it is still the truth and it will always be a compelling component to an argument. The lies of George Bush and Richard Cheney, however, were not acknowledged even when evidence was produced to the contrary and they have already resulted (past tense) in the loss of billions of tax-payer dollars, the loss of thousands of our own peers in the sands of

Iraq, and loss of our cherished good-will around the world.

Honesty is the bedrock of a democracy facing the threat of terrorism from enemies both domestic and foreign. Even if George Bush did not lie about his knowledge of Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction, shouldn’t he have at least emulated Carl and asked probing questions? Shouldn’t he have at least been curious about why UN weapons inspectors, many of them good, loyal Republicans, weren’t so certain about growing Iraqi stockpiles just like Carl was curious about how words were added to the Pledge of Allegiance over time? Shouldn’t he have at least let the sun set on September 12, 2001 before deciding to rush off to war in Iraq?

My country deserves better than this.

Shankar Mukherji '08

Condemning Inflexibility

It is amazing to witness how much intellectual dishonesty is contained in Ruth Miller’s op-ed piece regarding candidates and

honesty [“How Much Candidate Honesty is Too Much?”]. There is no doubt that reconsideration of views when confronted with the facts is a courageous and laudable attitude. However, to conclude that such an attitude must lead to inconsistencies and flip-flops requires an utterly implausible logical leap. People’s opinions can and do change all the time, whether or not one is honest enough to admit a mistake; it is a natural and regular occurrence of everyday life.

More seriously, it is dishonest to place admission of a mistake and admission of willful ethical lapses or criminal behavior on the same moral plane. The former is merely stating that a held opinion was incorrect; the latter has moved beyond mere opinion and signifies outright moral or legal culpability.

Perhaps Ms. Miller prefers that all politicians display inflexible rigidity in their positions and be so unwavering in their ideology that even illegal behavior must be ruthlessly hidden from scrutiny. However, one suspects that were Ms. Miller to examine closely the records of people she believes are “consistent,” she would find enough “flip-flops” to sink her argument once and for all.

Ahmed E. Ismail G

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The Dark Side of “Moral Clarity”

Alexander del Nido

If anyone needed any confirmation that American political campaigns are conducted largely without any substance, as illustrated already by the Vietnam-filled hot air of the Democratic National Convention and the massive media zoo centered around the Anti-Kerry Swift Boat ads, one only needed to watch the first night of the Republican National Convention to be completely convinced. It appears that Republicans are just as condescending toward their audience’s intelligence as the so-called “liberal elite” that they love to bash — the GOP convention is designed for people with a ten-year-old’s understanding of world events. From beginning to end, from the families of 9/11 victims to former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani’s unending and gratuitously sappy references to that day, the entire night was nothing better than an appeal to the anger, fear, and sadness we felt on 9/11. As one pundit has put it, “It was 100 % pathos, and 0% logos.”

In this atmosphere of raw emotion (I thought Republicans called liberals the sensitive tear-jerkers), it is quite difficult to comment substantively on what I saw, because, as I noted, there was very little substance to comment on. The GOP served up a beautiful meal, with their glossy stars former New York Mayor Richard Giuliani and Senator John McCain as the main course, but the only real “meat and potatoes” reason they provided to support President Bush was his personal leadership after 9/11— a closer look through the Republican rhetoric on the President’s determination and “moral clarity” reveals a meager feast at best. Giuliani and McCain waxed eloquent on the subject of Bush’s will to win, but their focus on this non-issue hides the fact that Bush’s will has brought us nothing; they did not talk about our actual victories against terrorism, or our successes in Iraq, because there is very little success to speak of. In short, for all the talk of Bush’s style, this style has produced no substance.

The theme of the first night of the Republican Convention was “A Nation of Courage”, with presentations designed to highlight President Bush’s strong response to 9/11 and strong will in the so-called “war on terrorism”. It seems clear that the GOP strategy on national security issues is to frame the debate as a question of “resolve” and “leadership” — Bush demonstrates “moral clarity” in his convictions, and he takes action based on those convictions without regard to political pressure; the implicit comparison, of course, is with Senator John Kerry’s well-publicized tendency to add often contradictory “nuances” to his positions as the political wind changes. This strategy may work, and as long as Americans don’t think too much about national

security and terrorism, it will.

The fact is that Kerry cannot win this fight; no one is going to out-do the President in conviction (or stubbornness, if you prefer). Republicans have set a trap for Kerry to engage the President on who has more “will” to win, and Kerry must not fall for it, as he fell for the trap of giving a yes-or-no answer on whether he would have voted for the authority to engage war in Iraq knowing what he knows now.

Avoiding the who-has-more-resolve debate is actually easy for Kerry; quite simply, he should concede it. Clearly, he should not admit that he is a feckless Francophile “flip-flopper”, but he should concede that Bush does have the resolve to win. However, the important question is not whether Bush wants to win, but whether he knows how to do it. Having courage in your convictions can be counterproductive, particularly if you’re especially courageous in your conviction to jump off a bridge.

Andrew Sullivan, former editor of *The New Republic*, and certainly not the biggest Kerry-supporter in the world, stated it best: “The deeper question, however, is: do we have confidence in this administration’s competence (not will) to conduct the war effectively and bring it toward victory?”

“Competence”, not “resolve”, needs to be the key word for Democrats if they are to win the national security battle (and thus probably the election battle in its entirety). Point out how Bush is firmly resolved to continue down a road that is losing the “war on terrorism”, creating a failed state in Iraq, destroying the American economy and leading to financial disaster, trashing the environment, abusing the Constitution, and preventing scientific progress. Stubborn adherence to misguided policies, especially in the face of mounting empirical evidence calling them into question, should be exposed for what it is; a weakness, not a strength.

In his speech on the first night of the Democratic National Convention, former-President Bill Clinton told us not to believe the critics who charge that Kerry’s complex world-view will prevent him from standing up to terrorists; “Strength and wisdom are not conflicting values — they go hand in hand”, Clinton argued. John Kerry now needs to take that statement one step further; not only are strength and wisdom compatible, but in order for strength to mean anything it must be accompanied by wisdom, and George W. Bush’s record demonstrates that strong convictions mean nothing when they’re based on nothing. Only in this way can the Democrats exploit the cult of “moral clarity” the GOP is building around the President rather than fall victim to it, and demonstrate how Bush’s greatest stylistic asset, his resolve, is in fact the most important reason for his defeat.

Alexander del Nido is a member of the *Class of 2006*.

A New Kind of Population Density

Ruth Miller

Have you ever had a really bad seat at a concert? I’m talking about having to sit a half mile from the stage, where even if you could distinguish the people on stage, the huge guy sitting in front of you has a cowboy hat to prevent you from doing so. Did you stand up? It sure would have improved your view, but if that huge guy blocking your view can’t see over the woman with the beehive hair and decides to stand up, too, you’re right back where you started. Except now, you have to stand up or sit and face that huge guy’s ass. The moral is: what’s good for the individual isn’t always good for the group.

This is precisely the situation my town finds itself in now. I live in the Georgia county of Newton, which is really rural and really pretty. There are miles and miles of road that wind through pastures and farms, and at the end of those roads are old-fashioned little towns like Mansfield, Newborn, and other Mayberry-like destinations. Everybody knows everyone, and you can’t skip school without somebody seeing you. For lack of a better word, it’s all very quaint.

As a sharp contrast to the rural, open spaces of Newton County, Atlanta is less than 30 miles away. “Capital of the New South” as it may be, Atlanta is crowded, poorly planned, and dirty. Having to sit behind this huge guy for the first few songs of the concert “Atlanta’s rebirth” has prompted many residents to flee to the suburbs and make the commute. Well, the suburbs filled up years ago, as did the rural areas behind the suburbs in every direction but ours, and the population explosion doesn’t seem to be slowing down.

I don’t mean to throw around the term “explosion”, but what’s happening in the metropolitan Atlanta area dwarfs common experience. Five of the top 10 fastest growing counties in America last year were in Georgia. Newton was ranked the eighth. This is up from 2001, when Georgia had just three, and Newton was eleventh in the nation. The U.S. Census Bureau put Newton County’s population at 32,054 in 1990, 62,001 in 2000, and around 76,144 in 2003.

What is it like to live in the eighth fastest growing county in America, you ask? Well, let me tell you. I’m 19, and I can remember when the road past the Wal-Mart wasn’t completely paved. I attended two of the three schools that have been built on that road, and it is going to be four-laned by the end of the 2005. I remember when you really could know everyone, everywhere, and my name was “Coach Miller’s daughter”, because my dad coached football at the only high school in the county, and the town came out on Friday nights to see my daddy’s boys beat up on

whoever was on the schedule that night. Now less than half of the people here didn’t live here when that happened.

This is sad, but this is something the current residents have to deal with. Traffic, three Waffle Houses, and a million new schools are one thing, but interacting with these new people is completely another. I happened to run into “Ashley”, and hear her views on why Newton County is perfect for her and her six children.

Ashley felt the need to tell me how lucky I am for living in Mayberry all my life, and how she moved her children here so they could enjoy the same benefits. My hometown is so cute, charming, and small. She knows it will be lovely having the whole town looking out for her children and her interests, because everyone here does that for everybody.

To Ashley’s credit, she had moved in from Gwinnett County. Gwinnett is a sad story of poorly managed growth for the rest of Atlanta (ie “At least we aren’t Gwinnett”; “We don’t want to be the next Gwinnett”).

To my credit, I was helping to run this little “Meet the Candidate” shin dig, and this was the last twenty minutes of my 13 hour work day. My exhaustion was soon coupled with frustration when every statement I made was batted down with “oh, you just haven’t have children yet, you can’t understand, but you will in a few years.”

I asked her how she would feel when Gwinnett County followed her and filled up our small town. I asked her if she realized it was her mentality that suffocated Gwinnett, and has its hands around the throat of Newton. I told her about the subdivisions I see today that weren’t built when I left for school in January. I told her how the most desirable locations are the least accessible, and as the tiny roads are clogged, those remote vistas are paved, and the locusts move on. I told her about the remorseless developers, in it to make a quick buck, that build substandard housing and never look back. I told her about the strain on the school system. I told her about the environmental regulations that are being ignored, and the damage to the local rivers.

I asked her why her family was more deserving than the ones to follow. I called her a hypocrite for wishing newcomers to stay out, while she just moved her troop of children into town less than a year ago. I asked what her children thought about being dragged from their friends so they could be spied upon by a community of as yet strangers. I asked her if she would sympathize or punish her children when, for lack of other entertainment, her children had nothing to do but loiter at the Wal-Mart.

But you know: I don’t have children yet, so I just can’t understand.



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ARTS

Warped Tour Leads to Space Station and Great Music

Warped, from Page 1

fer the Wipers and the Pogues to A Simple Plan and the Dropkick Murphys, the Warped Tour hasn't changed. Washington or Massachusetts, 1994 or 2004, it doesn't make a difference.

For ten years, Warped Tour has been the most equal opportunity summer festival, offering exactly thirty minutes of set-time to each band. And if there's one message to glean from this tenth tour, it's that it isn't about the clothes, the hair, or even the music; it's about the fact that the youth will always have the urge to scream and yell and jump and express themselves, and for that reason, punk is still alive and fighting to be as politically driven as ever.

Allister

The boys of Allister are pretty. Very pretty. Almost too pretty. They look like they should be soccer players or professional surfers, not rock musicians. Scott Murphy, the sideburn-sporting bassist and vocalist, knows and understands the value of a perfectly timed smile and wink. Resting his foot on the stage-front speakers and leaning on his knee towards the crowd asking them to sing along to the next song, guitarist Tim Allister has mastered the intimacy of band/crowd interaction. These boys would be perfect candidates to play the Beach Boys in a made-for-TV movie.

But going beyond appearances, Allister knows exactly how to unite pop and rock into a searing yet soothing sound that had even the security guards clapping. From the melodically nostalgic "Fullerton" to the manic forty-two-second long pogo-fest "All My Friends are on Drugs", Allister's managed to ride the cusp of pop and somehow remain just short of annoying. Maybe it was the tight song-writing, or maybe it was the frequent split-leaps and supersoaker crowd dowsings, but Allister is everything a pop-punk band could ever aspire to be. The real question is, will these pretty boys from Illinois ever aspire to be anything more?

Not for Now

The comfort with which the members of Not for Now confidently interacted with their audience may not have given away the ages of these young college boys, but the banality and predictability of their lyrics (which only slightly exceeded the sophistication of "this sucks, I just broke up with my girlfriend") did. Their melodic poppy vocals interspersed with erratic screaming were discordant yet duly

for a bunch of boys going to school in rural Washington State, they still have a long way to go before they really have something to boast about. (And before vocalist and bassist Ben Johnson's pleas of "any of you girls can follow us to our tent after the set" will be even noticed.) Not for Now may have a successful future ahead of them, but as their name aptly states, they don't have much of a present.

The Briggs

The Briggs proved once and for all that yes, livid screaming can be harmonized, and it can sound amazing. This distinctly blue-collar sound of the Briggs brought attention from a lot of the more established bands on Warped Tour. Their fast loud sound, which has elements reminiscent of Irish bands like the Pogues as well as sorrowful cowboy laments was perfectly accented by the LaRoca brothers' boisterous and full vocals.

While enjoying the thoroughly "street punk" sound of the Briggs, I was also reminded of their Los Angeles roots by screaming guitar solos. With socially relevant lyrics, incredibly tight drumming, and irresistible charisma, the Briggs set themselves apart as one of the most promising bands on Warped Tour and had the entire crowd participating in their emphatic "oooh oooh oooh"-ing and "oi oi oi"-ing.

The Groovie Ghoulies

The Groovie Ghoulies have been longtime heroes of mine. Founder — and only remaining member of the original 1989 lineup — Kepi Ghoulie's cheerfully high pitched vocals perfectly match the morbid lyrics, filled with themes such as vampires, zombies, and necrophilia. Songs like "Zombie Crush" and "She's Got a Brain Scrambling Device" can only be sung with carefree enthusiasm. It was disappointing at first to see that these macabre geniuses were condemned to the Space Station, the smallest of the ten Warped Tour stages, playing 15-minute sets in the lulls between neighboring set-ups.

But living up to their reputation as being one of the most purely fun bands to watch, the Groovie Ghoulies made the most of their situation. Standing atop three milk crates to play, Kepi catered to the requests of a tight and dedicated group of hardcore Ghoulies fans. For those that were lucky enough to stumble upon the Space Station, the Groovie Ghoulies proved to be one of the best aspects of the tour.

The Vandals

I never thought I'd be in a crowd of people who were too young to understand and love the Vandals, but when these seasoned veterans — who have been around in one form or another since 1985 — took the stage, no one in the audience seemed to know what to make of them. After the first two songs, lead singer Warren Fitzgerald remarked nonchalantly, "Uh, we're gonna play another song by the Vandals." A girl standing in front of me turned to her friend and asked, "Who are the Vandals?"

But soon the mostly teen and pre-teen crowd warmed up to the band's rambunctious stage presence; by the end of the set — which included classics such as "Oi! to the World," the mullet-inspired "I've got an Ape Drape," and "My Girlfriend's Dead" (off of

the 1998 studio release "Hitler Bad, Vandals Good") — the generation gap was all but obliterated. An ever-entertaining live band that has an "online dating service" on their official Web site, the Vandals pulled such antics as having a guitar solo that featured nothing but holding a guitar alone up in the air. Proving that punks never go out of style, the Vandals put on an amazing show that left the crowd stunned, confused, and begging for more.

Anti-Flag

At this year's Warped Tour, Anti-Flag — who formed in 1988 but has had their current lineup since 1999 — was the most vocal and aggressive reminder that punk music's strong connection with political activism is not just a historical footnote but a thriving movement. Unlike some hardcore bands whose socially and politically driven lyrics are drowned by harsh guitars and incoherent screams, Anti-Flag's music is extremely accessible. The band maintains a sound that is both forceful and lucidly expressive.

The band was dressed all in black and punctuated only by Justin Sane's skinny white tie and matching bleached mohawk. Between their masterfully frantic guitar and body-shaking bass lines, the band used a picture of "Flat Stanley," drawn by Sane's five-year-old nephew, to lead to rousing political speeches. "What your hair looks like does not matter!" he urged, "What your color of skin or your sexual preference is, or what fucking flag they fly over your head, does not matter!" He proceeded to use George W. Bush's words against him, claiming that our president correctly labeled America's youth the "death of a nation," the death of the George Bush nation. Sane ended by imploring the crowd, "If you are sick of war, raise the peace sign as high as you can."

Flogging Molly

All bands on Warped Tour get an equal amount of time on stage, but no band got the crowd as sweaty, elated, or active as Flogging Molly. Their boisterous and artful mix of traditional Celtic folk tunes and instruments and punk and metal rhythms had thousands jiggling. As electric guitarist Dennis Casey said, "When you think about it, there's something about the energy involved in both Irish music and punk rock that just makes

sense."

The band, which was playing their last date in the United States before flying the next morning to tour Europe, was born out of and thrives off of animated live performances. Flogging Molly's first album was, in fact, recorded live, with eight band members playing instruments including violin, accordion, mandolin and banjo. Their new album, "Within a Mile of Home," comes out September



SARAH NEWMAN

The pretty boys of Allister serenade their adoring fans.



SARAH NEWMAN

"This is really dangerous, but I don't care because I want to have a GOOD TIME!" shouts Warren Fitzgerald of the Vandals.



SARAH NEWMAN

Electric guitarist Dennis Casey of Flogging Molly.

intriguing, and guitarist Tom Dormaier was never at a loss of energy as he sprinted around the stage sporting a "D.O.R.K. is for fuckers" shirt (it's a common practice for Warped Tour bands to don the apparel of their fellow tour-mates).

While they are off to an impressive start

14th and will be a departure from their other two studio albums. "We recorded it differently," Casey said, "we took a month and a half and spent a lot of time on pre-production, whereas none of our previous albums took more than two weeks. We tried new things with songs and styles of music. It will sound different, but Flogging Molly fans should really enjoy it."

As the closing band at the Warped Tour, Flogging Molly played all of their trademark songs. They opened with "Drunken Lullabies" and then went right into "Selfish Man," stalwartly dedicated to George Bush. Their stint on the 2004 Warped Tour marks the first time Flogging Molly has ever done anything really political, and Dennis Casey cited the fact that "everyone in the band is pretty much fed up with the current situation."

The only flaw in Flogging Molly's set was that it was too short, despite ripping and shaking up the crowd for thirty solid minutes. The band left the stage to chants begging for more but, as is Warped Tour custom, did not play an encore. Boston fans will just have to wait until October 1st, when Flogging Molly will play at Avalon.

INTERVIEW

Musings From the Mouth of a Punk

Bad Religion's Jay Bentley Contemplates Music, Politics, and Fame

By Jordan Wirfs-Brock

Prior to the Bad Religion set, I got to sit down and talk with Jay Bentley, bassist and co-founder of the band. Here's what Jay Bentley had to say.

On the origins of Bad Religion

For mathematics' sake, we say we formed in 1980, but it was really the fall/winter of 1979. Nobody can really remember anyway. Why did we form? Because we were bored and we didn't want to get beat up anymore after school.

On how the band has changed over the years

As far as the band goes, maturity is a big thing. We're more poignant in our lyrical content. At 15, we were blindly angry, but now we can single out what we're unhappy about and articulate it.

On touring with bands

The most fun band to tour with was Less Than Jake, by far. They are a great, fun band. Even if it was four guys in a closet with a homemade disco ball, there was always be a party every night. When we opened for Neil Young, most of the crowd just hung their mouths open when we went on stage like "What is this band?!" So we decided to just be weird and crazy and scream and yell and vomit. Let's just be these crazy scary guys that no one understands. The same thing happened when we were on tour with Blink-182 and there were a bunch of 11-year-old girls in the crowd. They didn't know what to make of us, so we decided to just scare them. Those kinds of shows are some of the most fun just because of that aspect.

On the Warped Tour

Warped Tour is not like any other tour on the planet. It's presenting something more than six or seven pasty white bands coming out of a limousine. There's a community, there's interaction between the bands and with the fans. It's definitely one of a kind.

On punk rock

What I describe punk rock as... I have to

fight that within me and be no longer it. Thus if I label it, I can't be it anymore by definition. Does that make any sense? But I know one thing for sure, it has nothing to do with the hair... or the music.

On how Bad Religion has stayed together for so long

We don't make singles, we don't write albums to be megahits, we write records we like. Everything else has just been fun. We have no grand plans that can fall short. It's a hobby, like poker. That's why we've stayed together for so long. We're not best friends, we're like family. We fight like brothers. Inevitably, you drift apart in your thought processes and life goals, but ultimately we're like brothers.

On his favorite songs to play live

"Tom Sawyer" or "Hot for Teacher." As far as Bad Religion songs, "All There Is" off of "Empire Strikes First."

On the political face of the Warped Tour

I think from the moment we got out here, bands got fired up about being on a "political tour." We've played in front of some 500,000 kids, but maybe 10 were George W. Bush supporters. So it's like we're preaching to the converted. But our goal is just to make sure they aren't apathetic.

On John Kerry

I hope he wins. I hate George Bush. I don't hate him as a man, but his policies are unbelievably heinous. Kerry, I don't really like him, but he's the only logical option in what the average American could deem a respectable alternative to George Bush.

On Bad Religion's musical influences

I was really into The Clash and The Jam. Brett was into the Ramones, and Graffin was into bands like the UK Subs and the Subhumans and the Dead Boys. The only thing we all liked was Elvis Costello. So that's what we would listen to when we were driving around. Now, collectively there's nothing we can lis-



SARAH NEWMAN

Jay Bentley is the bassist and co-founder of the band Bad Religion.

ten to between the six of us.

On his top three songs of all time

Do I really have to answer that? I'd have to say "Tiny Dancer" by Elton John, "Bodies" by the Sex Pistols, and something off of "Nevermind." I truly believe "Nevermind" was a perfect record, so anything off that album would work.

On global causes the band supports

Well, getting George Bush out of office is a global cause right now. It has huge global importance. As far as what the band supports, we are big into research on global warming. We have a research fund that gives grants to graduate students doing studies on global warming and other issues dealing with resources for the future.

On being a celebrity

Our band is not centered on the individuals but the message, so I can walk about of a show and people will be asking "Where's the band?" and I can tell them "Oh, they'll

be out in a few minutes." I can still go to the grocery store. I like not being recognized...I like going shopping for groceries.

On MTV

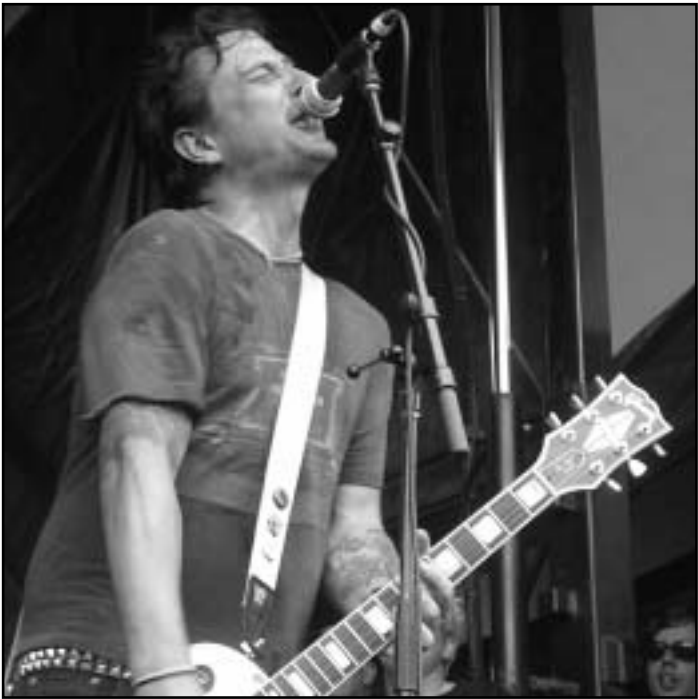
I watch it, sometimes. I remember watching it come on TV for the first time. But I'm not that into it because I can remember a time when there weren't music videos. I feel like that's changed the face of music. The experience of putting on your headphones and just getting lost in the music and letting your brain do all the work is gone somewhat. You don't know how many times I've heard people say "I have a great idea for a music video...I just need to come up with a song for it! That's so wrong.

On the future of the band

We're having fun and there's no reason to stop. We're still relevant. We're not a reunion rock band; we're still putting out albums. We'll definitely stop before we're riding the county fair circuit, or when we stop being relevant. When the band does stop, I'll probably keep doing what I'm doing now, managing bands and stuff.

Warped Tour Brings

Punk Rock to Life



(Top left) Bassist Bryan Kienlen of the Bouncing Souls sings his heart out.

(Bottom left) Not For Now tries their hardest to get the attention of the crowd.

(Above) Warren Fitzgerald (left) and Dave Quackenbush of the Vandals share a microphone and an intimate moment.

Photography by Sarah Newman.

daily

Thursday,
September 2

Confuzion

00:00
00:00 — **Senior Haus** — SUSHI!! Oh wait, that's tomorrow. Come back then and we'll take you out for tasty treats.
00:00 — **German House** — The movie madness just does not end. german house lounge
00:00 — **EAsT campUS** — I'm a dancing fool! I may be totally wrong, but I'm a dancing fool. (on sand)
00:00 — **French House** — Did you know that fondue is a French word? We'll be dipping all sorts of things into sweet, warm, thick, gooey... oh, where was I? chocolate fondue. 5th floor, New House 6.
00:00 — **French House** — Nous avons du chocolat fondu. Bien sûr: « fondue » est un mot français, n'est-ce pas? 5ème étage, New House 6.
00:00 — **Burton-Conner** — Tours? Of Burton-Conner? Come enjoy the witty raport of an upperclassman as s/he takes you about the dorm showing you some of the oddities and wonderments. You probably won't cry, you better laugh as these shall be the best of times AND the worst of times. Or a time. Maybe.
00:01 — **Senior Haus** — It's *still shiny*. It's *still glowsticks*. IT'S *STILL DANCEPARTY DUDE COME ON OK*
00:15 — **EAsT campUS** — What's cooler than being cool? We're still partying at E.C. x32871
00:36 — **EAsT campUS** — video may have killed the radio star, but not us. we're jammin to the block rocking beats.

01:00
01:00 — **EAsT campUS** — Some of us like capes, most of us don't. We accept all kinds here. x3-2871
01:00 — **French House** — What happens when you microwave a grape? Find out in the French House Kitchen, 5th floor, New House 6.
01:00 — **French House** — Qu'est-ce qui se passe quand on met un raisin dans le four à micro-ondes ? Pour le découvrir, allez au cinquième étage, New House 6.
01:01 — **Bexxxley** — "Pleather"—The New Word in Fashion. Find out why!
01:16 — **EAsT campUS** — east campus east campus east campus
01:30 — **EAsT campUS** — Picture pages, picture pages, open up your picture pages. But remember. Obey the November rule. Freshmen. Watch yourselves. x32871
01:35 — **Senior Haus** — Mm. It kind of hurts to move now. Come wander around the haus for a while. We'll amuse you.

02:00
02:00 — **German House** — could they still be watching movies, head on over and check it out. german house lounge
02:07 — **EAsT campUS** — First of all, Papa Smurf didn't create Smurfette. Gargamel did. She was sent in as Gargamel's evil spy with the intention of destroying the Smurf village, but the overwhelming goodness of the Smurf way of life transformed her.
02:30 — **EAsT campUS** — War is peace. Freedom is slavery.

Ignorance is strength. x32871
02:42 — **Senior Haus** — If your legs are long enough and your shoes have enough traction, you can jump up in the elevator and plant your feet on opposite walls and inch your way up to the ceiling. It's so much fun.
02:57 — **Senior Haus** — Also there's an old space that used to be a room before the renovations on top of the elevator shaft. If you go up to the 5th floor and look up into the shaft, you can kind of see the paint on a sunny day. *The more you know...*

03:00
03:00 — **EAsT campUS** — Don't ameliorate. Defenestrate. Like first east's sofa and refrigerator. And over 100 monitors from fifth east.
03:00 — **Burton-Conner** — Tours? Of Burton-Conner? Come enjoy the witty raport of an upperclassman as s/he takes you about the dorm showing you some of the oddities and wonderments. You probably won't cry, you better laugh as these shall be the best of times AND the worst of times. Or a time. Maybe.
03:12 — **French House** — At one point, we almost had our name changed to Freedom House.
03:33 — **Senior Haus** — That's a lot of threes!
03:47 — **Random Hall** — RHOP: the Random House of Pancakes, now open for all your breakfast needs.

04:00
04:04 — **EAsT campUS** — east campus. surprisingly close to all of your classes on campus. wake up with shiny breck hair and waltz into class bright eyed and bushy tailed.
04:17 — **Random Hall** — Late night, or early morning? Does it even matter? Probably not. What you really need is a good dose of pancakes! Eat at RHOP for some quality breakfast, smothered with quality chocolate syrup. And regular syrup. And powdered sugar. And maybe even a cherry on top...
04:30 — **Senior Haus** — It's getting light out. You might want to sleep. But it doesn't really matter all that much, as you'll learn in the coming months.

05:00
05:30 — **EAsT campUS** — Til the break of dawn, you got it going on. x3-2871
05:45 — **Bexxxley** — It's never too early for ASHDOWN.
05:53 — **EAsT campUS** — Now, are you going to show that on television? Have all your housewives look at that? Instead of AS THE WORLD TURNS? I mean, what do you got for me? I want something for that.

06:00
06:00 — **German House** — guten nacht
06:00 — **EAsT campUS** — What do you mean, 'it's a literary high?' / It's a Kafka high. You feel like a bug. Infested. x3-2871
06:22 — **Senior Haus** — Unless you're asleep, you probably need caffeine about now. Don't worry, it's a noble addiction.
06:30 — **EAsT campUS** — its nearly monistat 7 o'clock. tick tock. tick tock.

07:00
07:47 — **EAsT campUS** — I believe in America. America has made my fortune. x3-2871

08:00
08:00 — **Senior Haus** — Nope, no zombies here. ...seriously, put away the shotgun.
08:00 — **EAsT campUS** — Naked blonde walks into a bar with a poodle under one arm and a two-foot salami under the other. The bartender says, I guess you won't be needing a drink. Naked lady says—OH SH**!
08:03 — **Senior Haus** — Oh man, they totally fell for it.
08:14 — **Simmons Hall** — Ommmm — Try out Simmons' meditation room and enhance your calm.
08:17 — **Random Hall** — It's Saturday morning! Well, maybe it isn't, but we're watching cartoons anyway. Because we're just that awesome. Join us!
08:30 — **New House** — ***BREAKFAST *** Why are you reading this when you should be at New House? We have cool people, yummy breakfast, and the best rooms on campus.
08:47 — **Random Hall** — What's your favorite cereal? We like Chocolate Doom Crunch, now with 20% more destructive potential! Stop by Random Hall for cartoons, (more!) breakfast, and all manner of amusingly sleep-depped people.
08:59 — **EAsT campUS** — It's five o'clock somewhere. x3-2871

09:00
09:00 — **MacGregor** — Breakfast-Just-Like-Home at MacGregor! Come by for good ol' breakfast food and even have a fresh waffle made for you. Kick back, read the Boston Globe, and just chill with our residents on our comfy sofas. We'll be in our pajamas, so feel free to come in yours.
09:00 — **New House** — Still serving up bagel, cereal, and coffee (the staples of college life) as well as fresh fruit for those of you who want something healthier.
09:00 — **New House** — Tours shouldn't be torture. And they're not at New House. AC, gym, AC, big rooms, AC, kitchens, AC, tunnel to MacGregor Convenience, AC
09:00 — **Burton-Conner** — Tours? Of Burton-Conner? Come enjoy the witty raport of an upperclassman as s/he takes you about the dorm showing you some of the oddities and wonderments. You probably won't cry, you better laugh as these shall be the best of times AND the worst of times. Or a time. Maybe.
09:02 — **Simmons Hall** — Crepe Extravaganza- The frenzy of crêpe artistry begins at 9:02 and continues until 12:00. We'll have everything from chocolate to baked apple crepes all for your eating pleasure! Be sure to visit Simmons and enjoy some free food!
09:17 — **Random Hall** — Did you ever feel sorry for Wile E. Coyote, stuck on the wall of building 9 for eternity? But wait, he's in our lounge! Wow, that's odd...
09:22 — **Senior Haus** — Some people at Senior Haus have cats. 9:22am is a pretty good

time to pet a cat. Go find a cat. Go find a cat!

10:00
10:00 — **MacGregor** — Informal MacGregor tours and free snacks! Come by MacGregor to get a look around while munching on perennial college favorites. We're giving tours until 6 PM today, so be sure to get over here at some point.
10:00 — **Bexxxley** — Learn how to harass people without even meeting them.
10:17 — **Random Hall** — Institvt-e-furnished rooms getting to you? Take control of your life by way of your ceiling! Ceiling tile painting for great justice, only at Random.
10:25 — **Bexxxley** — Diversity brunch: serving turkey and cracker.
10:44 — **Senior Haus** — False alarm pending.
10:47 — **Random Hall** — Be the envy of your floor with a painted ceiling tile or three. We'll provide the paint...there's even shiny purple! Just what your boring old ceiling needs.
10:49 — **Senior Haus** — - APOCALYPSE-
10:51 — **Senior Haus** — Please disregard preceding apocalypse. False alarm.
10:59 — **EAsT campUS** — What this book presupposes is...Maybe he didn't? x3-2871

11:00
11:00 — **Bexxxley** — Come by for some small talk no one cares about! Our living group is totally the coolest, and to prove it, we're going to kiss your ass, cook you waffles and pretend MIT is a non-stop carnival with Spin Art and a muthaf—ing dunktank!
11:00 — **Burton-Conner** — Brunch anyone? Yet another opportunity to have free food at Burton-Conner! We know that no one likes to get up exceptionally early, so let us feed you at a more leisurely time! Skip breakfast! Go for BC brunch!
11:00 — **French House** — Roll up your jeans, it's the Boston Fountain Tour! See the sites of the city and splash around. Meet at the steps of the student center, and look for the French flag.
11:00 — **French House** — Nous allons explorer les fontaines de Boston. Soyez touristes avec nous, et si vous voulez, nous pouvons aussi nous baigner dans quelques fontaines. On va se réunir aux marches devant le Student Center – cherchez le drapeau français.
11:17 — **Random Hall** — Giant bubbles! Of doom! On the roofdeck! If you're lucky, you might even get to be inside one! Childlike sense of wonder not provided.
11:22 — **Senior Haus** — Come play with our tire swing! It's super fun, and only mildly mortally dangerous.
11:47 — **Random Hall** — Blow a ceiling tile and paint a bubble! Wait a minute...

12:00
12:00 — **Baker House** — Movies and Pac-Man tourney. Relax while watching movies or challenge a Bakerite in Pac-Man. Prizes for the top players, food and fun for all!
12:00 — **MacGregor** — MacGregor BBQ! We're holding a traditional MacG BBQ in our beautiful outdoor BBQ pits. Come enjoy the sunshine, the good food (veggie options available!), and the music. Join in a game of touch-football out on the field and have an awesome afternoon with us.
12:00 — **Senior Haus** — Those

of us that went to sleep last night are probably still in bed. This is **folly**. Come wake us up! We'll give you tours and play music for you.
12:00 — **EAsT campUS** — BARBEQUE. Extra good for you!
12:00 — **German House** — lets go fly a kite. come have a picnic in the park with German House. we'll play games and eat in the sun. meet New House 6: second floor: German House lounge. End of arcade, turn right, up the stairs, 2nd floor. Open door, step in, turn left.
12:00 — **French House** — Missed the fountain tour? Don't worry, people are still around French House. Sometimes things get a little messy around MIT, especially when finger paint is involved. Come create some art and chat with us. 5th floor, New House 6.
12:00 — **French House** — Vous n'avez pas besoin d'être Van Gogh pour faire des peintures à doigts avec nous. 5ème étage, New House 6.
12:02 — **Senior Haus** — Follow the white rabbit! ...and if you think this is a Matrix reference, follow, you have much to learn.
12:15 — **Burton-Conner** — Our Pedestal Jousting arena just arrived. Drop by and prepare for a fight to the death...err.....I mean a fight until the other person falls off! That sounds less exciting...how about...Beat each other with sticks!! Yeah, that's more like it.
12:17 — **Random Hall** — Kids these days...sitting at their little tables with their puny little Jenga set. Back in our day, we played Jenga with 2x4s! Oh, hey, we still do. Wow. Come check it out...but don't you dare sneeze.
12:27 — **EAsT campUS** — Have you seen our statues? They're "public art" you know.
12:30 — **Senior Haus** — There are many viable topics of conversation, such as oriental rugs. Most oriental rugs are ornate. Call (617)-253-3191 for the oriental rug hotline.
12:30 — **New House** — Sushi and Hobo Pie Making – Learn how to impress friends and dates as well as how to feed yourself... a critical college survival skill... taught by New House culinary talents. There will be (virgin) drinks too.
12:45 — **EAsT campUS** — Ewww, that smell. Can't you smell that smell? Meat and veggie burgers a grillin at E.C.
12:47 — **Random Hall** — 2x4 JENGA! A Bad Ideas™ production, brought to you by Random Hall. Better hope it doesn't fall...
12:52 — **EAsT campUS** — Your parents are gone. A perfect time to have your hair dyed purple, right? We also have henna tattoos for those who enjoy their current hair color.

13:00
13:00 — **Senior Haus** — Feasting in the courtyard! Delicious tender or crisp or otherwise pleasing morsels which are *actually fresh*. Seriously, this isn't your average barbecue.
13:00 — **German House** — Playing games in the sunshine.
13:00 — **EAsT campUS** — Beans don't burn in the kitchen. Fish don't fry on the grill Cook-out. All welcome.
13:17 — **Random Hall** — It's a gala celebration of cows, carrots, and piracy, also known as a barbecue on our most excellent roofdeck! Bring your own sacrificial goat (we'll provide the burgers).
13:37 — **French House** — Wondering about the banner outside New House? Yeah, we know it's misspelled. We got

them to fix it, too, but the fix seems to have faded away. En tout cas, ce n'est pas notre faute! Come drop by during the day anyway. La Maison FrançaisE, 5th floor, New Hous 6.
13:47 — **Random Hall** — BBQ! Come eat, drink, and sing cow songs on our rooftop! Vegetarian foodstuffs and songstuffs provided.
13:55 — **EAsT campUS** — Ugly sculpture building in our courtyard. As if what we got ain't ugly enough.

14:00
14:00 — **Bexxxley** — Free Rush violations! (Bring latex gloves)
14:00 — **Senior Haus** — Side-walk chalk! Tire swing! Buckets of dead mice!
14:00 — **EAsT campUS** — You scream, I scream, we all scream for ice cream!
14:00 — **New House** — Beach Party! New House has a great river view, and if you have a good imagination, you can almost pretend it's the Atlantic. Water balloons, kiddie pool, limbo contests, and (of course) bbq and refreshments.
14:00 — **Burton-Conner** — We're going on a photo-safari! Come explore the dark secrets of Burton-Conner through the lens of a camera. Prizes awarded to those who decipher the most clues and get a picture of the answer. Sound a bit weird? It is, yet oddly fun.... C'mon, you know you wanna discover BC!
14:03 — **Senior Haus** — Okay, we got rid of the mice. You can come over now.
14:03 — **Simmons Hall** — Who Dunnit? The Scream Caper-Edward Munch's famous painting has been stolen. The newspapers didn't tell you, but the thieves have decided to hide it in Simmons Hall! Come help solve this international mystery – all detectives will be duly rewarded.
14:05 — **New House** — For those of you who only speak math: New House + Water Balloons = You + Here + Now
14:17 — **Random Hall** — Come marvel at fresh-painted ceiling tiles and residents in all their paint-splattered glory! And make your own...housemaster, it followed me home. Can I keep it?
14:17 — **Random Hall** — There comes a time during every orientation when you just want to beat your fellows - and some luckless upperclassmen - with foam swords. Follow Alex for some high-quality boffing!
14:23 — **EAsT campUS** — I am error Make your very own EC povec.
14:30 — **MacGregor** — Karaoke and Sundaes with MacGregor! Indulge and make your own ice cream sundaes with all the toppings and delicious goodness. And take your turn singing your heart out on our Karaoke machine! Bring friends and watch them embarrass themselves.
14:43 — **EAsT campUS** — Have you seen our roller coaster? Did you know you have to sign a waiver to ride it?

15:00
15:00 — **Senior Haus** — Good music. Hot tea. Scones and cookies. A mercury-crazed mad hatter. Alice in Wonderland tea party!
15:00 — **German House** — Could they still be out? Yes, we are just having that much fun. Come with us and hit up downtown Boston as well.
15:00 — **EAsT campUS** — You spin me right round, baby, right round Giant Spin art and Pin art
15:00 — **Bexxxley** — The Fascist revolution has depended in

the past and still depends on the bayonets of its Legionaries.
15:09 — **Bexxxley** — SIMMONS HALL — It's not AS ugly on the inside.
15:17 — **Random Hall** — It's the finest selection of romance novels around – carefully selected, annotated, and declaimed aloud for your amusement by our very own vixen. Oh, my virtue! Oh, my innocence! Oh, what wickedly tight breeches!
15:30 — **EAsT campUS** — Watermelon toss. Supposedly first ever...that's what she said.

16:00
16:00 — **Senior Haus** — Did you go to the tea party? Have you talked with one of us yet? Do it. It's totally worth it.
16:01 — **EAsT campUS** — Balance beam fighting in our courtyard coliseum. Can balance beam fighting possibly be a good idea?
16:17 — **Random Hall** — Hungry? Make your own pizza at Random Hall... if you dare...
16:20 — **Bexxxley** — Watch The Cosby Show the way it was meant to be watched.
16:23 — **Senior Haus** — Is the paint-by-numbers mural done yet? There are still bouncy balls everywhere, so that's pretty cool. Over 70% our house tours have completed without incident.
16:30 — **EAsT campUS** — jousting. Wrestling in something messy. Last year it was tapioca. What will it be this time?
16:47 — **Random Hall** — You've never seen pizzas like these! And maybe there's a reason...customize yours with chocolate chips, grasshoppers, or eye of newt.
16:50 — **EAsT campUS** — So it's sorta social, demented and sad, but social. Right?

17:00
17:00 — **Senior Haus** — 24 hours till the housing lottery closes! If you don't enter it, I will cry and probably not eat for several days.
17:00 — **EAsT campUS** — Mikey P. has moved out. It's a sad day. Jousting! x3-2781
17:00 — **Burton-Conner** — The grape long toss? The watermelon relay? It's your chance to become an Olympian! True, you don't get to go to Greece and truthfully, NBC probably doesn't give a hoot, but it'll still be fun! Come to compete or come to watch whilst enjoying a BBQ. Just show up!
17:00 — **French House** — See what it's like to cook a real French House meal. Help us in the kitchen, and reap the rewards once we've finished. No cooking experience needed! 5th Floor, New House 6.
17:00 — **French House** — Venez nous aider à cuisiner, et regardez-nous préparer un de nos dîners quotidiens. L'habileté dans la cuisine est optionnelle! 5ème étage, New House 6.
17:03 — **Senior Haus** — Get it? We spelled “housing” “hausing”. That means we're rebellious or some such.
17:13 — **Simmons Hall** — Indoor Rock Climbing - We have crazy walls. You have crazy feet. You're at MIT...you can obviously do the math. (aka tours)
17:52 — **Senior Haus** — It was recently discovered that the supply of awesomeness for most of the east coast flows from directly underneath Senior Haus. Boggle at the implications!
17:59 — **EAsT campUS** — teenage suicide: don't do it.

18:00
18:00 — **Bexxxley** — Forget steak and lobster- come stuff

yourself with Grape Nuts! I love you this much...
18:00 — **Senior Haus** — We can't schedule events for a while now because the administration wants you all for itself. And we're fine with that. There definitely won't be anything fun happening anywhere near the Haus until 9, at least. *cough cough* Sorry, I have a cold.
18:00 — **French House** — What is the difference between “compare to” and “compare with”? When can you use “due to”? You probably don't care... but come hang out with us anyway! 5th floor, New House 6.
18:00 — **Burton-Conner** — Tours? Of Burton-Conner? Come enjoy the witty raport of an upperclassman as s/he takes you about the dorm showing you some of the oddities and wonderments. You probably won't cry, you better laugh as these shall be the best of times AND the worst of times. Or a time. Maybe.
18:01 — **Senior Haus** — No, it'd be a horrible idea to come to Senior Haus while you're supposed to be learning about rape, because it will be a very meaningful talk, and it will be a lot better than deciding where you're going to live for the next several months.

19:00
19:15 — **French House** — Dinner is served! Even if you didn't help us cook, you're welcome to come enjoy an LMF-style feast with us. On the menu: salad, quiche, pizza, and a dessert. (Veggie options available.) Bring your appetite for food and conversation! 5th Floor, New House 6.
19:15 — **French House** — Dîner! Même si vous ne nous avez pas aidés à cuisiner, vous êtes les bienvenus à notre repas. Au menu: salade, quiche, pizza, et un dessert. (Nous avons des options végétariennes.) Bon appétit! 5ème étage, New House 6.
19:20 — **Bexxxley** — In the future, we will all drive standing up. In the future, plates of food will have names and titles. In the future, it will be a relief to find a place without culture.

20:00
20:00 — **New House** — Goody marshmallows, crisp graham crackers, melt-in-your-mouth chocolate. Sigh. And then come by New House where we'll be outside making smores.
20:00 — **New House** — Some more smores.
20:00 — **French House** — Exhausted from orientation? Come laze about with us as we watch a French movie and eat popcorn and cookies. Don't worry, there will be subtitles at the 5th floor of New House 6.
20:00 — **French House** — Régardez un film français avec nous, et mangez du pop-corn et des biscuits, aussi! N'ayez pas peur ; il y aura aussi des sous-titres. 5ème étage, New House 6.
20:02 — **New House** — And more smores cause we all know you can never have too many

21:00
21:00 — **German House** — Bored? Come play board games at German House. Good old german and english games to pass the time. NEW HOUSE 6, 2nd floor German House lounge. End of arcade, turn right, up the stairs, 2nd floor. Open door, step in, turn left.
21:00 — **German House** — MONOPOLY!!! German house lounge: NEW HOUSE 6, 2nd floor

21:00 — **EAsT campUS** — She came over. I lost my nerve. So I took her back and made her dessert. x3-2871
21:00 — **Senior Haus** — Oh man, what a great lecture! Now get back here. We're the cool kids.
21:00 — **Burton-Conner** — Been a long night and you just want a smoothy? Does it seem odd we just so happened to mention smoothies out of the blue? Well it's not because we're having smoothies! It's hot out (if it's raining, oops!) and we're having smoothies set to some jazz in the background.
21:02 — **Simmons Hall** — Indoor Antics- Join us for some mini-golf, chair races, and other field sports not designed for indoor practice. No one's around to tell you not to swing the golf clubs inside...
21:15 — **Senior Haus** — Impress your mom! Come home with purple hair! We've got hair dye, clippers, and an urge to modify.
21:16 — **Senior Haus** — We will take your clothes apart, and put them back together again, making them harder, better, faster, stronger. Clothing modification in the courtyard.
21:17 — **Random Hall** — Listening to speeches always whets the appetite. How about some pizza? Choose your own toppings from our strange and awesome variety.
21:17 — **Random Hall** — Hey, it's Rush! And suddenly the dorm's enormous collection of games has burst screaming from the closets to conquer any unwary lounges! Save the dorm: play games with us. Please?
21:17 — **Senior Haus** — Remember the 70's? Long hair, hippies, and tie-dyeing! Come tie-dye your clothes at Senior Haus. It's *groooovy*, MAN.
21:19 — **Senior Haus** — Okay, we found our glasses. C'mon, let us cut your hair now.
21:20 — **EAsT campUS** — If you're not here by now, you may've almost missed out on Sarah's famous cheesecake. Get here fast!
21:22 — **Senior Haus** — Stop running! We can't chase you with these scissors in our hands!
21:30 — **Baker House** — Come on down to Baker and get lei'd! Luau at Baker House. Food, games, prizes, and FUN! (Baker Rooftop - pending weather)
21:30 — **EAsT campUS** — F.B. aiyyaiiii x3-2871 to pass the time.
21:47 — **Random Hall** — How about some mango on your pizza? Perhaps a dash of apple-sauce, or a few cheetos? Come make your own pizza, play a game, watch a movie with our awesome projector set up, conquer Belgium, or just hang out.
21:47 — **Random Hall** — We're gonna sing the doom song now! Doom doom doom, doom doom doom doooooooooom, doom doom doom doom...This cryptic message brought to you by Random Hall. Come find out what it really means!
21:47 — **Random Hall** — At 77 Kelvin, we're way cool. So is our freshly made ice cream! Come hang out with us.
21:48 — **EAsT campUS** — I just can't get stretch princess off my mind! x3-2871 if you know what I'm talking about.

22:00
22:00 — **MacGregor** — Leftovers Eat-In! We're eating all the leftovers from today's events and relaxing after an exhausting REX day. Come to take a load off, talk to residents about topics other than your hometown and

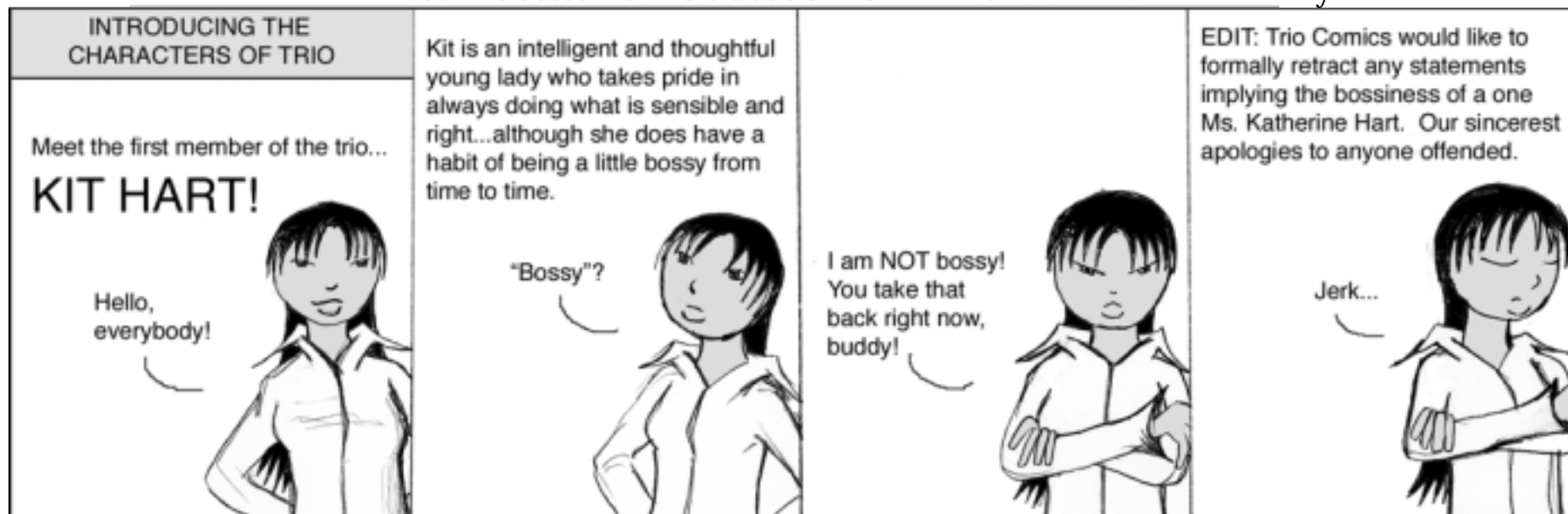
intended major, and to eat all the leftovers you didn't have room for earlier.
22:00 — **EAsT campUS** — Take your cup. Fill 'er up. A fish in the water's not thirsty. x3-2871 in case you're hoping there's some cake left.
22:00 — **Senior Haus** — t minus 22 minutes to happiness. Repeat, happiness approaching rapidly.
22:13 — **Senior Haus** — Shh, don't worry, they were only teasing. Come to Senior Haus. We love you here.
22:15 — **Senior Haus** — Cutlery appreciation seminar with Josh Powell in Suite 462. You can just walk in the door. The man's got some damn fine knives.
22:17 — **Random Hall** — Do you like penicillin on your pizza? We prefer pickles.
22:18 — **EAsT campUS** — Lite Brite was the coolest toy ever! Just imagine how cool giant Lite Brite could be. Or don't imagine, come to EAsT campUS and play with ours! x3-2871
22:20 — **Senior Haus** — Now's as good a time as any to try out the tire swing and maybe feed the tree a bit. Ask one of us if you're confused.
22:22 — **Senior Haus** — Happiness! I am grinning wildly but you probably cannot see it from where you are standing.
22:30 — **EAsT campUS** — Mulct – (verb) to punish Matt Brooks said he'd be over to hand out whips. Want to know if he followed through on another empty campaign promise? x3-2871
22:47 — **Random Hall** — Games games games! Games! Games are the lifeblood of Random Hall...well, one of them. Come play!
22:52 — **EAsT campUS** — the building may be 80 years old but we are barely legal at heart. east campus

23:00
23:00 — **EAsT campUS** — Hey kid, I'm a computer. Stop all the downloading x3-2871
23:11 — **Simmons Hall** — Simmons Waffle House- Relive the Southern tradition! Sims Waffle House waiters deliver your pancakes, toast, sausage, eggs, hash browns and, of course, waffles straight to you!
23:12 — **EAsT campUS** — In order to ride Jenny's spinning seesaw, you should find someone who weighs EXACTLY as much as you do.
23:17 — **Random Hall** — Random Hall: more fun than a frog in a blender.
23:19 — **French House** — Voulez-vous coucher avec moi ce soir? Si vous habitez ici, vous pourrez utiliser cette phrase!
23:22 — **Senior Haus** — If you accidentally ingest methanol, the only way to prevent poisoning is to drastically increase the amount of ethanol in your bloodstream, tying up the metabolic pathways while the methanol gets filtered out. I'd suggest that we test this theory, but that would be dumb.
23:30 — **EAsT campUS** — My set is amazing! It even smells like a street. En la esquina de main y windsor, iba en mi bicicleta con jeans y mi quezquemel. Manny me dijo, oye, parecés un gipsy. Eres un gipsy? Y le dije. No. not so much. x3-2871
23:39 — **Bexxxley** — Come stand in the vestibule and look like a moron because you can't find the doorbell.
23:59 — **EAsT campUS** — Ritualistic Virgin Sacrifice. Bring your temp roommate. You were never going to see shim after rush anyway.

Trio

Learn more about the TRIO characters: ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE

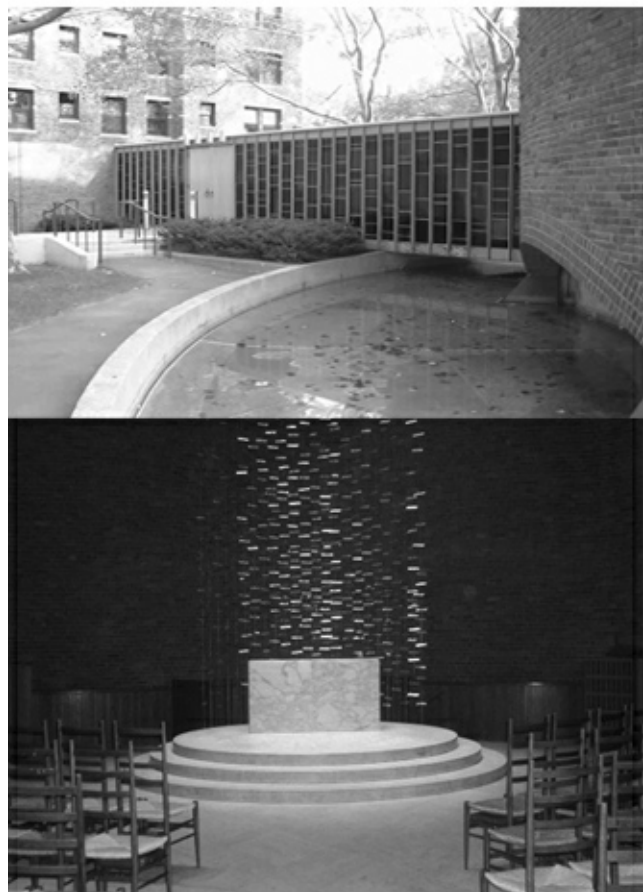
by Emezie Okorafor



Freshman Guide to Lesser Known Residential Halls

MIT Chapel

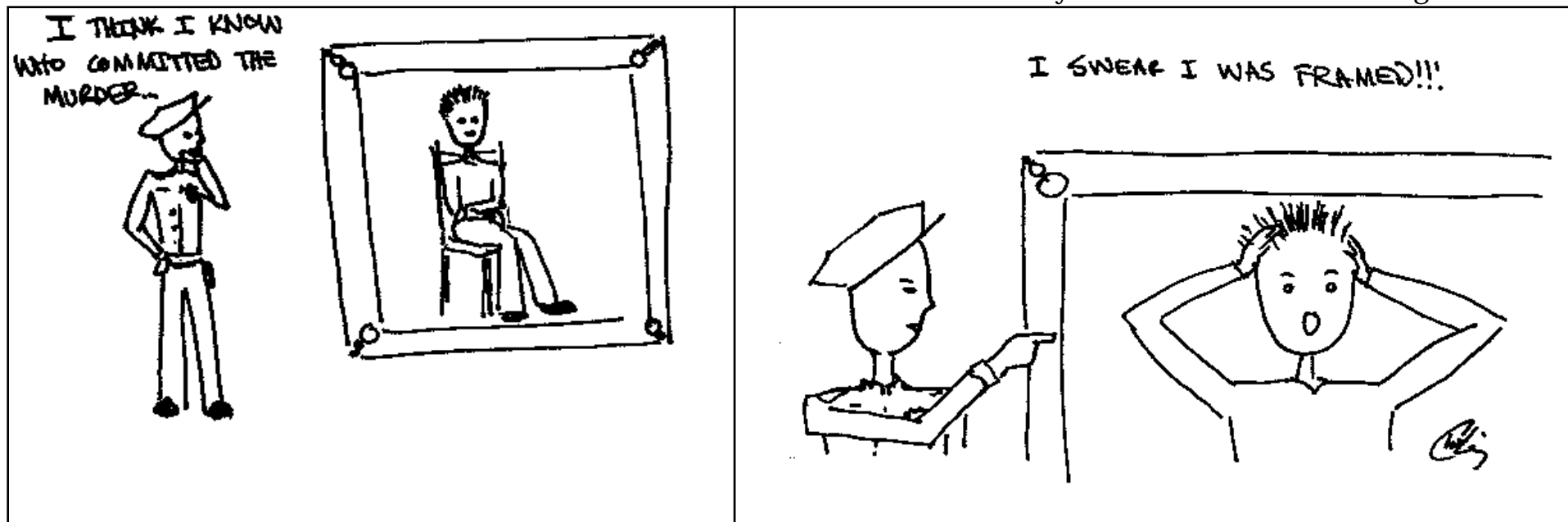
by Brian Loux

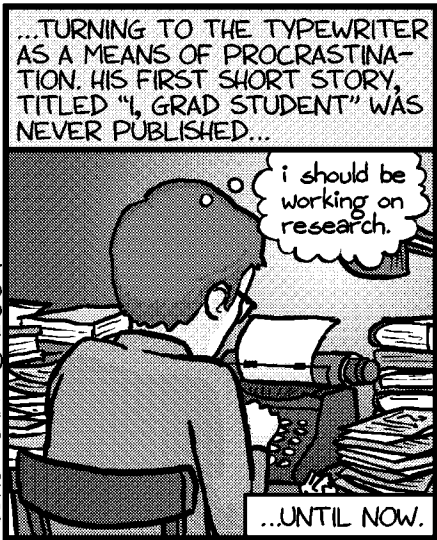
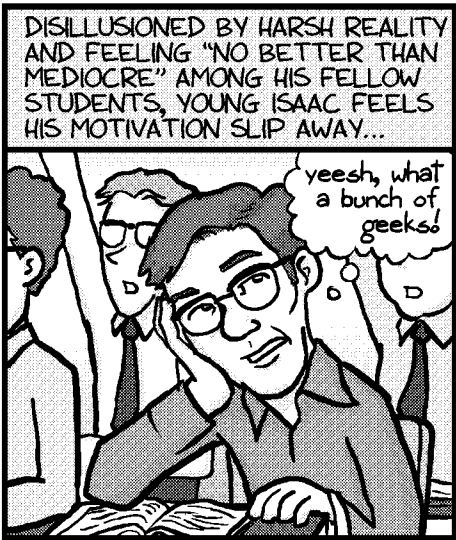
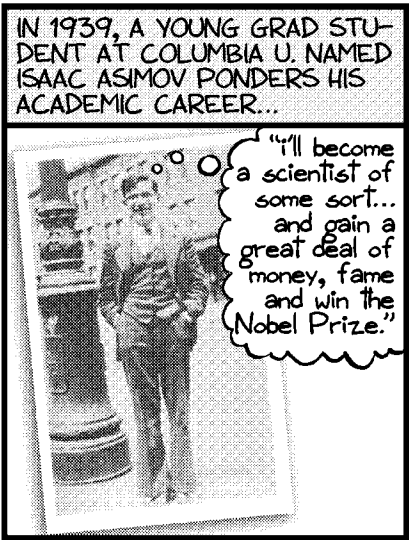
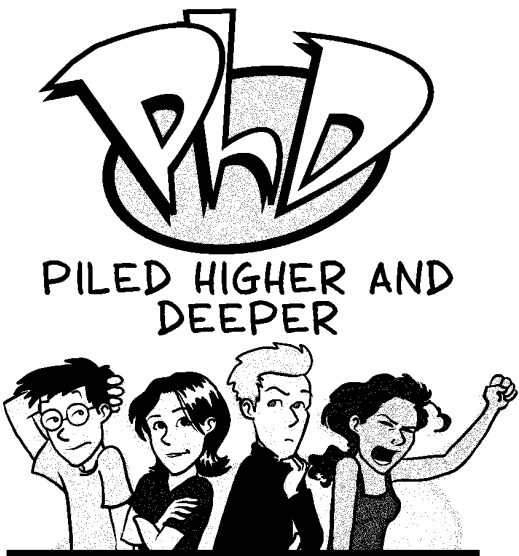


Another cheap option. Spacious, in quiet neighborhood with pool. Great during the weekdays, but damned if you want to do anything there on the weekends. Father Paul and the congregation said I can't sleep on the altar, I told him that a man needs his eight hours. Sheesh. You would have thought I singlehandedly legalized gay marriage.

A Bad Pun

by Dan Scolnic and Cha-Ling O'Connell





www.phdcomics.com

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 14

ACROSS

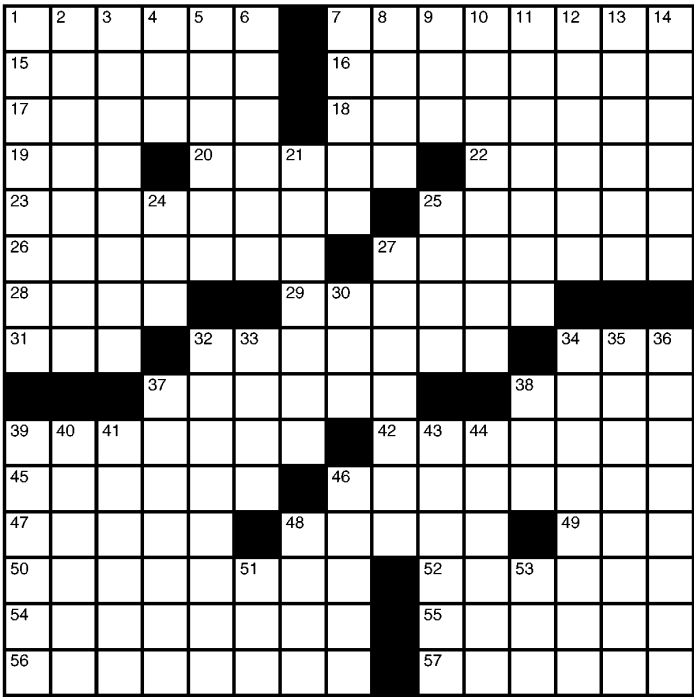
- 1 Vigorous conflict
- 7 Ojibwa
- 15 Sharp, rugged ridges
- 16 Lowered in dignity
- 17 Chip or Dale
- 18 Repeated
- 19 Astronaut
- 20 Seasonal song
- 22 Derisive
- 23 1862 battlefield
- 25 Drudge
- 26 Burned by hot liquid
- 27 Men on base
- 28 Withered
- 29 Cold pack
- 31 Forerunner of the CIA
- 32 Provisions in a document
- 34 For each

- 37 Presley hit, "In the ___"
- 38 Categorized groups
- 39 Red phone
- 42 Relating to part of the ear
- 45 Wedding-party members
- 46 Dinner hour
- 47 Much inclined
- 48 Savory
- 49 Immoral misdeed
- 50 Destructive insects
- 52 Constituent of natural gas
- 54 State of partial disability
- 55 Dodecanese island
- 56 Stretch
- 57 Passover meals

DOWN

- 1 Calm area of the Atlantic
- 2 Defeats decisively
- 3 Communist symbols
- 4 Israel or Jacob follower
- 5 Moved stolen property
- 6 Heir's inheritance
- 7 Type of portable memory
- 8 Cad
- 9 Mischievous child
- 10 Assumed identities
- 11 Causing emotional distress
- 12 Store as fodder
- 13 Gardener, often
- 14 European vipers
- 21 Glow with joy
- 24 Seine sight
- 25 Toothpaste

- container
- 27 Does some cobbling
- 30 Slice
- 32 Sounding like a small bird
- 33 Eye part
- 34 Defensive stake fence
- 35 Investigator
- 36 Scarcity
- 37 Singing club members
- 38 Steve Martin song, "King ___"
- 39 Energetic drive
- 40 Of bone
- 41 Dynamic leader?
- 43 Horse operas
- 44 Actress Danner
- 46 Billiards shot
- 48 Take a sample
- 51 Brewed drink
- 53 Mortar carrier



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CAMPUS LIFE

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By Alejandro Sedeño, Arun Tharuvai, Eri Izawa, Erin Price, and Kevin Chen

Want to learn more about Zephyr? Need to figure out if someone is logged in and communicate with them quickly? In this column, part 3 of 4 of our introductory orientation columns, we cover the basics of using Zephyr.

What is this white rectangular thing that just popped up?

That would likely be a zephyr. Zephyr is Athena's instant messaging system. Unlike some chat programs like AIM, each "IM" shows up in its own window by default. It may be an official notice, or perhaps just a message from a friend. When you're done with it, click on it to close the window. The default program responsible for displaying these messages is called zwgc — Zephyr WindowGram Client.

What are some other good zephyr client programs?

Owl is another good zephyr client. It is a tty based (text-only) client. You can run owl by running:

```
athena% add ktools; owl
```

Once running owl, you may find it useful to hit 'h' to read through the help menus. Owl has its own set of commands for sending messages and adding classes. The commands for joining and leaving classes are meant to be used along with Zwgc.

Other options are vt, zwgc -ttymode, gaim, WinZephyr, and Maczephyr (see <http://itinfo.mit.edu/product?name=zephyr> for the last two), but zephyr clients are a very personal thing. Owl is probably the easiest to customize. owl, vt, and zwgc -ttymode are all console programs, and thus they can be run from non-Athena computers by using ssh to connect to athena.dialup.mit.edu.

So, I can receive zephyrs, but how do I send one?

You can send a zephyr to another person

using the "zwrite" command:

```
athena% zwrite username
```

You can send to more than one user at a time by listing them after the first name.

Can I use group chats in zephyr?

Zephyr has group chats, called classes. Any message in a zephyr class also has a subject, which is called an instance. You can see all messages that go to any instance within a particular class, or just the messages sent to a particular instance of a particular class. (Example: A message about the SIPB office might be sent to class "sipb" instance "office." Since most SIPB members like seeing anything about SIPB, they subscribe to all instances of class "sipb.")

Some commonly used public classes are "help" (for asking all sorts of questions), "geek" (for various technically oriented questions), and "message" (the default zephyr class).

Here are the commands for joining and leaving zephyr classes:

Command	Description
— zctl sub classname * *	Join the class temporarily until you logout.
— zctl add classname * *	Join the class until you logout, <i>and</i> add to your zephyr subscriptions (so you join it automatically next time you log in).
— zctl unsub classname * *	Leave the class.
— zctl del classname * *	Leave the class, <i>and</i> remove it from your zephyr subscriptions.

The first "*" signifies that you should sub to all instances in the class, and the second "*" signifies that this is a group chat. Your zephyr subscriptions are saved in your home directory in the file ~/.zephyr.subs.

To send a message to a zephyr class, you can type

```
athena% zwrite -c classname -i instance
```

Class "message," the default class, is a special case. When people talk about subscribing to an instance, they usually mean an

instance of class "message." Examples of such instances are "white-magic" (for random discussion), "war" (war-related topics), "war.d" (discussion about the war instance), and "weather" (for automated weather announcements). Several courses also have instances they use.

To temporarily join a specific instance of class "message" without seeing any other instances, type:

```
athena% zctl sub message instancename \*
```

To send a message to an instance of class "message," type:

```
athena% zwrite -i instance
```

Note: Class "message" instances are *not* private. All instances of class "message" are logged in the "zlog" locker, and some people subscribe to all instances.

How do I create my own zephyr class?

Just subscribe to whatever classname you want, and start zephyring there. It is common for people to use classes named after their usernames, since other people know to sub there.

Before subscribing, if you're creating a class that's not your username, you should check to make sure that no one is using the class, by sending a message to the class. If you get a message that says no one is subscribed, then you're all set. Otherwise, you may want to choose a different class name.

One important fact to note is that zephyr classes are only as private as their name. Anyone who knows the name of a zephyr class can subscribe there and send messages there — there are no ways to ban, kick, or block people from zephyr classes.

How does zephyr do buddy lists?

To make a buddy list, create a file in your home directory called ~/.anyone, and list each friend's username on a separate line.

To see who's online, just type the command znol at the Athena prompt. You'll get a list of people, the machines they're logged

into, and some other information. People who aren't logged in usually won't show up.

```
athena% znol
returns
user1: this-machine-does-not-exist.mit.edu
owl Sat Jul 24 10:51:21 2004
friend2: mint-square.mit.edu pts/26 Mon
Aug 30 10:48:21 2004
```

Zephyr Etiquette

There are a few conventions that you should use when sending to group chats on zephyr.

First, subscribe to the class (or instance) before zephyring there. The only time when you wouldn't want to do this, is if you're trying to see if a class is in use as mentioned above.

Secondly, instances should be short and limited to alphanumeric characters, underscores, hyphens and periods. Spaces are especially annoying.

Third, linewidth your zephyrs. Long messages that don't have returns are annoying to users of several common zephyr clients, which deliberately don't wrap lines.

How do I find out more about Zephyr?

To find out more about zephyr, you can check out SIPB's Inessential zephyr, at <http://www.mit.edu/afs/sipb.mit.edu/project/doc/zephyr/html/>, or in hardcopy form at the SIPB office.

You can also see our March 7, 2003 column at <http://www.mit.edu/~asksipb/2003columns/2003-03-07-zephyrp2/> for some additional information.

To ask us a question, send email to sipb@mit.edu. We'll try to answer you quickly, and we might address your question in our next column. You can also stop by our office in W20-557 or call us at x3-7788 if you need help. Copies of each column and pointers to additional information will be posted on our Web site: <http://www.mit.edu/~asksipb/>.



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Potential Buyer for Talbot Found

MIT has found a potential buyer for the Talbot House, Campus Activities Complex Director Phillip J. Walsh said.

“There’s an agreement underway which would see the closure towards the end of September,” he said.

He said that the closing price was “certainly within the range that we were hoping for,” about \$400,000 before closing costs and fees.

The Talbot House has served as a retreat location in Vermont for students and faculty since it was donated by the late Laurence Rockefeller in the 1960s.

MIT and the Undergraduate Association are currently developing a list of possible alternatives, including the Endicott House, a conference center in Massachusetts.

—Beckett Sterner

News Briefs

MIT Updates Athena Software, To Offer More Laptop Support

Networks, from Page 1

“One of the threads that we have gleaned from the interviews, focus groups, and surveys with students is the need for more collaborative spaces enhanced by technology,” said Phillip D. Long, senior strategist for the Academic Computing group at IS&T. “This is a central component to this first step in modifying a few cluster spaces with shared LCD screens, collaborative, web-enabled white boards, and simply comfortable, flexible seating,” he said.

Room W20-575D, in the back of the largest cluster, now contains three collaborative spaces; two have LCD panels that can be attached to laptops, while the third has a whiteboard whose contents can be photographed and accessed on the web.

The 56-129 cluster contains a more sophisticated whiteboard that can be used to display and even control an attached computer. Additional renovations, including the installation of WinAthena workstations, have been made in these clusters as well as E51-075 and 14-033.

“We want to provide such technology-enabled workspaces, as well as better leverage the technology that students are bringing with them to campus. We’ve seen the percentage of students bringing laptop computers to campus increase from about 20 percent to over 74 percent in the last two years,” Long said.

Long said that IS&T will continue to experiment and gather feedback about the best use of cluster and classroom space.

“These are new spaces. They are the first substantive changes in clus-

ters for many years. We need to understand what works and what doesn’t. Do the shared LCD screens really help students working together on projects? Is this something we should do more of or should we focus on other kinds of technologies to support learning?” Long said.

More information about cluster developments can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/acis/>.

New Athena release

Release 9.3 of the Athena computing environment was deployed in July. The most visible changes include updates to a number of popular software packages, as well as the addition of the Nautilus file manager to the desktop.

“We hope Nautilus will make Athena friendlier to new users by simplifying file management,” said Greg Hudson ’96, systems programmer for IS&T and the Athena release engineer. Nautilus is similar to Microsoft’s Windows Explorer.

In addition, the operating system for GNU/Linux workstations was upgraded from Red Hat Linux 9 to Red Hat Enterprise Linux WS 3, for which MIT has bought a site license. Students will be able to install RHEL 3 on their own machines at no cost.

“IS&T has implemented the Red Hat Network automated software update service for Red Hat Enterprise Linux systems,” Long said. “This service provides your Red Hat Enterprise Linux system with software updates to reduce system administration load and ensure your machine is always running the latest system software with the most current security updates,” he said.

Quota increased to 1 gigabyte

The default Athena user quota has increased from 500 megabyte to 1 GB. This is in addition to the 250 MB of IMAP e-mail quota.

“This past spring the IS&T Server Operations team replaced 15 of our oldest AFS servers with 5 new ones. The decommissioned servers could each hold approximately 135 GB of data, and the replacement servers each hold approximately 1.1 TB of data,” said Jonathon Weiss ’93, a system administrator for IS&T.

“There are approximately 6.7 TB of production disk space in the Athena AFS cell. This space is approximately 50 percent used and 550 percent allocated,” Weiss said, where percent allocated refers to the total space required if everyone used their entire quota.

A history of Athena quota in recent years can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/xela/www/quota.html>.

Future improvements planned

“Future plans for Athena include better support for laptops, improvements in usability, and projects aimed at making private Athena workstations and servers work well in specific customer environments,” Hudson said.

Long said that on the academic computing front, several departments are integrating tablet PCs into their curricula, several laboratories are experimenting with making their equipment Internet-enabled, and that the Technology Enabled Active Learning program will continue to expand.

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Frosh are More Like Classic MIT Techies

Frosh, from Page 1

Interestingly enough, the trend is not consistent across ethnicity. “The trend has been,” Jones said, “that there are generally more Asian women here than Asian men.”

With African-American students, the opposite is true, and for other ethnicities the breakdown is more-or-less even she said.

As for the breakdown by ethnicity, 26 percent of the admitted students are Asian, 35 percent Caucasian, 6 percent African-American, and 19 percent Hispanic. The remaining 14 percent chose not to identify themselves or did not fit in the aforementioned categories.

The Class of 2008 includes students from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 48 countries, Jones said. California, Texas, and New York were the most popular states of origin for this year’s freshman class, she said.

Class of 2008 well-suited for MIT

The Class of 2008 is also more interested in the subjects traditionally studied at MIT. “If anything, I would say that I think they’re more like the

old-fashioned Techies,” she said.

In the past few years, students at MIT, while interested in science and engineering, also craved a large dose of liberal arts. This year’s group, however, is more strongly focused back on science and engineering, she said.

“The reason for that is that our other competition schools have now moved to single-choice early action, Jones said, which forced non-traditional applicants students to declare their preferences earlier and more definitively.

As a result, this year, MIT received applications from “a more distilled version of the MIT applicant,” she said.

Of the students accepted, the mean SAT scores were 713 for the verbal section and 756 on the math section. Thirty-eight percent of the students were their high school valedictorians as well, she said.

Freshman yield high this year

The Class of 2008 had an especially high yield this past year. The yield is determined by dividing the number of students that decide to enroll in MIT by the number of offers extended to potential MIT freshmen.

They “yielded a lot higher than we thought they would,” Jones said. The yield was 65 percent this year, versus the 59 percent yield last year.

“Pity the poor freshmen next year,” she said, because the high yield this year means that fewer students will be admitted next year because more of the admitted students are expected to come to MIT.


The problem, though, is that “it’s volatile,” and that no year is quite like the year before, so the yield will probably change again next year, she said.

Solution to Crossword


from page 10

S	T	R	I	F	E		C	H	I	P	P	E	W	A
A	R	E	T	E	S		D	E	M	E	A	N	E	D
R	O	D	E	N	T		R	E	P	R	I	S	E	D
G	U	S		C	A	R	O	L		S	N	I	D	E
A	N	T	I	E	T	A	M		T	O	I	L	E	R
S	C	A	L	D	E	D		R	U	N	N	E	R	S
S	E	R	E		I	C	E	B	A	G				
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				G	H	E	T	T	O		T	A	X	A
H	O	T	L	I	N	E		L	O	B	U	L	A	R
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S	T	E	E	P		T	A	S	T	Y		S	I	N
T	E	R	M	I	T	E	S		E	T	H	A	N	E
L	A	M	E	N	E	S		R	H	O	D	E	S	
E	L	O	N	G	A	T	E		S	E	D	E	R	S

Empty Room?



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> :E =:DE G:DF 2= 2CED 46? E6C
#! 2^ VdDecVwL6" &

DEF 5 6? E =@2? 2CE AC@8 C2>

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4^ ^ aJViLR_ UV_ U` h^ V_ edXV_ Vc` f dj VdeRSjZUVU Sj ; Y_ ERj` cR_ U 2jR_ > Rj ŽEYV
8cRUF ReV Def UV_ ed CVTVaeZ _ Zl df` aa` ceVU Sj Def UV_ e=ZW 7VdR_ U: dRRT> Ž4` JSVceL
5VR_ Wc 8cRUF ReV Def UV_ edZ

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Rush for DKE Starts About A Week Late

DKE, from Page 1

involve alumni,” Fowler said.
“The reason we have this clause in the bylaws [allowing reconsideration of sanctions] is to reward behavior exactly like this.”
Rogers said that he worked with DKE officers President Spencer M. Cross ’05, Josephson, and House Manager Jacob D. Bourgeois ’05, meeting weekly with DKE.
“They came in ready to make some improvements and came up with a chapter code of conduct,” Rogers said. He said he has “nothing but praise” for DKE’s efforts.
Josephson said that DKE plans to continue to show what kind of fraternity it is with community events such as barbecues open to everyone and volunteering at concerts. The MIT administration has been very supportive of this, he said.

Rush delayed for DKE

Although DKE will be able to begin Rush on an earlier date than

they originally expected, other fraternities will still have a one-week head start and will have already given out bids.
DKE will participate in the second week “recruitment” stage rather than the “rush” stage, meaning they will not participate in the big parties, but hold small events for freshmen such as dinners, Fowler said.
Until Sept. 13, DKE is to follow orientation rules that prohibit promotions such as wearing letter shirts and verbally encouraging freshmen to visit the fraternity house, he said.
Josephson said that freshmen will be able to respond to bids from fraternities with normal rush privileges on Sept. 12-14, but DKE will offer bids on Sept. 15 and have pledge day on Thursday.
The minimum period to keep a bid open is 3 days in order to prevent freshmen from feeling too pressured to make a decision immediately.
“Obviously it’s going to be a challenge, but I think we have a good chance,” Josephson said.

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SPORTS

AFC Prospects: Patriots Again, East is Up for Grabs

By Brian Chase
SPORTS EDITOR

Do you smell that? That singular mix of sweat, adrenaline and plastic? It's a sign that September is upon us, and the football season is just about underway. And per the tradition for every publication to make football predictions, here are *The Tech's*, starting today with the American Football Conference, and tomorrow covering the National Football Conference.

The AFC this season is obviously the better conference, with a boatload of strong teams vying for the playoffs. This makes the conference hard to predict, and so all these predictions come with this caveat: I will be wrong.

AFC North:

We'll start with the easiest division to predict, because it is the one the New England Patriots are in. The Pats, according to many, are the strongest defending champions seen in some time, and I'm inclined to agree with them. True, they lost Ted Washington at nose tackle, but their organization has more than enough serviceable linemen to fill that hole. Also, the offense has upgraded considerably, with running back Corey Dillon joining and a batch of new

receivers showing promise. There's nothing in this division that will hold them back.

As for the rest of the division, I think they all will finish near to each other in record, because they all have some problems. The Dolphins have lost so many offensive players, through retirement or injury, that even the best defense in the NFL wouldn't get them to the playoffs this year (especially with a quarterback controversy between two mediocre players). The Bills are forced to rely on Drew Bledsoe at QB once again, which to me is always a dicey proposition, and their defense is shakier than the Dolphins. I think the Jets will surprise and take second in the division, off the power of a revamped and healthy offense.

AFC South:

The Colts are holding court, the Jaguars are on the rise, the Titans are falling, and Houston continues to stink. That's the AFC South in a nutshell. The Indianapolis Colts returned nearly everyone from a top offensive group last year, and that will be good enough to get them to the playoffs again this year. The defense may be a little better in the secondary, and that helps some too.

The Tennessee Titans have been living on borrowed time for the last few seasons in terms of the salary

cap, and it is finally starting to catch up to them. In the offseason, they started hemorrhaging players on both sides of the ball. They still have Steve McNair at QB, who is an offense unto himself, but I feel they have lost a few too many players to keep their stranglehold on the second spot in the division.

The Jaguars are the ones to assume the Titans' spot, because their offense will improve (QB Byron Leftwich has more experience) and their run defense is as strong as ever. Their one weakness is defending the pass, and if they fall in this division it will be because of that.

AFC East:

The East is the toss-up division of the AFC. Throw a rock and you'll hit a potential playoff team, as long as you don't hit the Cleveland Browns. Both their offensive and defensive line stink by all accounts, and you can't win football that way. Otherwise, Baltimore, Cincinnati, and even the Steelers on an outside shot could make the playoffs.

The Baltimore Ravens are another team that have the same problems as last year. Their defense is top notch, which will get them far, and they still have Jamal Lewis, probably the best back in the league but

the passing game still stinks, and that weakness may doom them against their toughest competitors, the Cincinnati Bengals.

The Bengals are experiencing a resurgence under coach Marvin Lewis, and their team seems good all-around. The defense is likely to improve because of a few key offseason pickups at cornerback and linebacker, and QB Carson Palmer, along with receiver Chad Johnson and running back Rudi Johnson will keep the offense humming. I like the Bengals to win the division with the Ravens second and the Steelers third.

The Steelers, after a 6-10 season last year, revamped practically the whole team, with new starters all over the place. If things gel quickly and the newbies play to potential, the Steelers could make the playoffs. More likely, Pittsburgh is playing for 2006 or beyond.

AFC West:

Last season, the Kansas City Chiefs went 13-3 and won this division despite having a horrible defense ranked near the very bottom. Unfortunately, the Chiefs placed all of the blame on the Defensive Coordinator, and so they replaced him and left the rest of the defense alone. The defense will improve, but not much, and that effect will be counteracted by a

much tougher schedule this year and by their wide receivers, who are all so injured that the offense is liable to be at least a little less effective than it was last season. The Chiefs will compete with the Ravens for the Wild Card, but no more than that.

In place of the Chiefs, the Broncos look ready to step up. Last season, their QB Jake Plummer was injured for several games, which basically doomed the Bronco's season. If he can stay healthy this year, and take some of the pressure of the running game (and the new running backs), the Broncos' offense will go far. Their defense has stayed strong, and only benefits from the addition of cornerback Champ Bailey, one of the best in the league.

The Oakland Raiders, who I place at third in the division, are a little bit of a mystery. They picked up a bunch of new players, but all are seasoned (or old) veterans, who may not be able to stay healthy over a long season. I have a feeling the new squad under a new coach will take at least a year to get back to 2003 form, with a few bad injuries along the way. The San Diego Chargers, by the way, will finish last, and running back LaDainian Tomlinson will earn the "Martyr of the Year Award" for his efforts on a team this bad.

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